**PROGRAMME SEMI-ANNUAL PROGRESS REPORT**

**Period: 1 January – 30 June 2018**

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| **Project Name** | Joint Programme for Support to Universal Suffrage Elections in the Federal Republic of Somalia UNDP Award ID000107518/ Project ID 000107800 |
| Gateway ID | 00108826 (MPTF Project ID) |
| Start date | 1 January 2018 |
| Planned end date (as per last approval) | 31 December 2018 |
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| Participating UN entities | UNDP and UNSOM (Integrated Electoral Support Group) |
| NDP Pillar | PWG 1: Inclusive Politics: *Achieve a stable and peaceful federal Somalia through inclusive political processes and effective decentralization – SWG-3 Elections* |
| UNSF Strategic Priority | Strategic Priority 1: Deepening federalism and state-building, supporting conflict resolution and reconciliation, & preparing for universal elections |
| Location(s) | National Programme – Mogadishu based |
| Gender Marker | 2 |

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| **Total Budget as per ProDoc**  | USD 6.5 million |
| MPTF: | USD 3,469,158 |
| Non-MPTF sources: | PBF: |
| Trac:  |
| Other: |

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| **Total MPTF Funds Received** | **Total non-MPTF Funds Received** |
| **PUNO** | **Reporting Period** | **Cumulative** | **Reporting Period** | **Cumulative** |
| **UNDP** | 3,469,158 | 3,469,158 | 11,865.00 | 11,865.00 |

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| **JP Expenditure of MPTF Funds[[1]](#footnote-1)** | **JP Expenditure of non-MPTF Funds**  |
| **PUNO** | **Reporting Period** | **Cumulative** | **Reporting Period** | **Cumulative** |
| **UNDP** | 2,049,197.34 | 2,049,197.34 | 11,865.00 | 11,865.00 |
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| **SEMI-ANNUAL HIGHLIGHTS**1. The National Security Council (NSC), comprising Somalia’s Federal Government and the State Presidents, agreed on 6 June in Baidoa on the electoral model for the federal elections, confirming “one person, one vote” suffrage elections based on political multi-party competition and closed list-proportional representation.
2. The National Independent Electoral Commission (NIEC) conducted consultations with national and sub-national actors to facilitate discussions throughout the country on challenges and preparations for universal elections in 2020/2021. From late December until mid-March, the NIEC engaged with 6,000 people in more than 30 locations across Somalia and abroad, including regional officials, elders, political associations and parties, religious leaders, women and youth groups, CSOs, and members of the Somali diaspora.
3. To date, the National Independent Election Commission (NIEC) has registered 15 temporary political parties.
4. The NIEC successfully conducted in the first half of 2018 four by-elections for vacant seats of the federal House of the People, in Jowhar, Kismayo, Mogadishu and Dhusamareb, respectively. These were the first elections organized by the NIEC since its establishment in 2015.
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| **HIGHLIGHTS OF KEY ACHIEVEMENTS**1. During this reporting period, the UNDP/UNSOM “Joint Programme for Support to Universal Suffrage Elections in the Federal Republic of Somalia” – in short “UN Joint programme for Electoral Support”- provided technical, logistical and budgetary support to the NIEC’s consultations with national and sub-national stakeholders across Somalia. In the first months of 2018, the NIEC engaged with 6,000 people in 30 locations across Somalia and abroad, including regional officials, elders, political parties, religious leaders, women and youth groups, CSOs, and members of the Somali diaspora. These consultations followed the instruction from the NSC in November 2017 for the NIEC to reach out in 90 days to Somali stakeholders in each of the Federal Member States (FMS) and engaged with all partners throughout the country on discussions regarding challenges and preparations for universal elections. It was the first time that the NIEC did a profound and extensive outreach campaign to stakeholders and partners in the field, including up to 4 locations per FMS.
2. In the first semester of 2018, the Joint Programme for Electoral Support continued to provide electoral legal advice together with technical and budgetary support to the Electoral Law Working Group (ELWG) of the Ministry of Interior, Federal Affairs and Reconciliation (MOIFAR). The ELWG, jointly with other actors from the Federal Government of Somalia (FGS), presented in the past months to the “Technical committee for the Promotion of Federal Affairs” options and recommendations for Somalia’s future Electoral Law. This technical committee was established in February 2018 and comprises representatives from the Federal Government and the Federal Member States. The joint FGS-FMS committee has been advising the country’s leaders during the Baidoa NSC in June 2018 on the Electoral Model. While the NSC confirmed “one person, one vote” elections for Somalia’s next federal elections based on political multi-party competition and closed list-proportional representation, the issue of the electoral constituency requires further discussion. In addition, some other electoral details will have to be clarified in the future Electoral Law. The NSC tasked the relevant government entities to implement the ‘Baidoa Agreement’ and to have the Electoral Law concluded by December 2018.
3. From 14 to 16 May, the NIEC participated in a workshop on voter registration facilitated by the Joint Programme for Electoral Support and assisted by international experts. It was an opportunity for the NIEC to analyze the outcomes of the Voter Registration Feasibility Study and its implications to inform the strategic and operational decisions in the next months required for a model to conduct a successful voter registration process.
4. In addition, the Joint Programme for Electoral Support continued to assist the NIEC with the temporary registration political parties. To date, 15 political parties have already received temporary registration certificates. Once voter registration is underway, parties will be able to proceed to the official stage of registration. This will require 10,000 registered voters indicating their support through a signature campaign that must be representative of 9 of the 18 regions.
5. With support from Japan and implemented through UNOPS, the UN Integrated Electoral Support Group[[2]](#footnote-2) (IESG) facilitated the finalization of the construction of Phase 1 of the NIEC’s future headquarters in Mogadishu. While funding for Phase 2 will be necessary to establish a fully functional independent electoral office, the completion of Phase 1 is a big step forward towards the NIEC’s institutional development.
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| **SITUATION UPDATE**On 18 January 2018, the Council of Ministers of Somalia’s Federal Government endorsed the 2020 Political Roadmap, which sets out as a government’s top priority a clear trajectory towards universal elections in 2020. The Roadmap interlinks essential political steps regarding the constitutional review, electoral preparations, state-formation and federalism. It outlines responsible partners and processes to be undertaken between 2017 and 2020, for the government to create a conducive political environment for universal elections in 2020. The Roadmap provides “Logical Framework Matrix” for quarterly reviews as a monitoring and evaluation mechanism on the political benchmarks, with quarterly meetings to review progress which includes Somalia’s federal member states and international partners. In its preamble, the Roadmap underscores its thrust to set out the critical steps necessary to achieve direct elections in 2020 that are credible and transparent.On 11 February 2018, Somalia’s National Security Council (NSC), which comprises the country’s federal and state leaders, established a “Technical committee for the Promotion of Federal Affairs”, whose TOR also include also to identify an “applicable electoral system”. In June 2018, this joint FMS-FGS technical committee briefed the NSC in Baidoa on the electoral model and options, resulting in the ‘Baidoa Agreement’ that now needs to be further elaborated in detail and incorporated in the electoral law by end of 2018. On 10 April, the NIEC organized a farewell ceremony for outgoing Secretary-General (SG) Dr. Dahir Mirreh Jibreel, who was the Head of the Secretariat for the last 2 years in a period when the NIEC developed its Strategic Plan and strengthened its relationships with the Federal Member States. The NIEC has advertised a vacancy announcement for a new SG.On 27 March, the UN Security Council adopted Resolution 2408 which extends the mandate of UNSOM until 31 March 2019, including electoral support. Resolution 2408 welcomes “the commitments of the Federal Government of Somalia to ‘one person, one vote’ elections in 2020/21, underscoring the importance of making progress on the political roadmap”. The Resolution further underscores “the importance of UNSOM's support to the Federal Government of Somalia on preparations for the delivery of an inclusive, credible and transparent ‘one person, one vote’ elections in 2020/21 with a focus on the NIEC at national and sub-national level to fulfil its constitutional mandate in line with the Somali-led Operational Strategic Plan for 2017-2021, the goal of nationwide voter registration by 2019, and coordination of international electoral support to Somalia”.From 13 to 21 May, an UN electoral Needs Assessment Mission to Somalia was deployed to assess developments pertaining to the preparations for multiparty universal suffrage elections in 2020/2021, the ability of UNSOM to fulfil its strengthened electoral mandate and make recommendations for resource requirements. |

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| **SEMI-ANNUAL PROGRESS REPORT RESULTS MATRIX**

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| **OUTCOME STATEMENT****Somali institutions are enabled to run independent, impartial, transparent and inclusive elections** |
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| **INDICATOR** | **TARGET** | **PROGRESS ON OUTPUT INDICATOR[[3]](#footnote-3)** |
| **REPORING PERIOD** | **CUMULATIVE** |
| **Output 1**: NIEC equipped with necessary capacities and structures to prepare for and conduct credible and inclusive elections |
| 1.1 NIEC policies and procedures (governance, finance & admin, operations, electoral, legal, etc.) developed and endorsed to fulfil its mandate to prepare for and conduct electoral operations | 5 | 2 | 2 |
| 1.2 # FMS where NIEC has established sub-national presence | 5 | 0 | 0 |
| * Sources of evidence:
* NIEC 5-year Strategic Plan (2017-2021);
* NIEC quarterly reports to the Federal Parliament;
* NIEC HACT assessment report;
* Social Media articles: NIEC Website (www.niec.so); NIEC Facebook page; NIEC twitter; UNSOM/UNDP Facebook page, twitter;
* Official NIEC presentations at PWG-1/SWG-3 and to donor partners and international community;
* Official documents signed between UNDP and the NIEC (Work Plan, Letter of Agreement);
* Training and workshop reports/materials;
* NIEC advisor reports to UNDP
* IESG BTOR
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| **Output 2**: NIEC supported to enhance public awareness of electoral processes, including promotion of women’s participation |
| 2.1 # of significant engagements the NIEC has rolled out with (sub-) national, including promoting enhanced women participation actors on electoral processes | 10 | 30 | 30 |
| 2.2 NIEC public outreach and voter education plan developed, including focus on women’s participation | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| Sources of evidence: * NIEC quarterly reports to the Federal Parliament and to NSC
* Published NIEC Consultations Report (Somali + English)
* Social Media articles: NIEC Website (www.niec.so); NIEC Facebook page; NIEC twitter; UNSOM/UNDP Facebook page, twitter;
* Media coverage NIEC sub-national consultative process
* Official NIEC presentations to donor partners and international community;
* NIEC advisor reports to UNDP
* IESG BTOR
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| **Output 3**: Support to the NIEC’s electoral operations |
| 3.1. # of political parties registered | NA | 15 | 15 |
| 3.2. VR methodology agreed by partners and VR plan developed | 1 | NO | NO |
| 3.3. # of regions where voting catchment areas are identified | 18 | 0 | 0 |
| 3.4. Somalia electoral security taskforce Re-established | 1 | NO | NO |
| 3.5 # of by-elections held | TBC | 4 | 4 |
| Sources of evidence: * NIEC certification political parties
* NIEC certification of winners of by-elections for federal House of the People
* NIEC operational plans for VR; updates on GIS mapping of voter catchment areas/
* IESG workshop materials for NIEC Voter Registration (VR) planning
* Letter to the Minister of Internal Security to initiate electoral security planning and reestablishment of the 2016/2017 joint electoral security task force
* NIEC quarterly reports to the Federal Parliament and to NSC
* Social Media articles: NIEC Website (www.niec.so); NIEC Facebook page; NIEC twitter; UNSOM/UNDP Facebook page, twitter;
* Official NIEC presentations to donor partners and international community;
* NIEC advisor reports to UNDP
* IESG BTOR and IESG electoral operations planning
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| **Output 4**: Establishment of permanent NIEC office facilities |
| Construction of phase two of NIEC HQ (Mog) | 1 | Phase I completed. No funding for phase II. | Phase I completed. No funding for phase II. |
| # of NIEC offices in the FMS | 5 | 0 | 0 |
| sources of evidence* NIEC inauguration of completion of Phase1 of its future HQ
* IESG and UNOPS reports to GOJ for construction of NIEC HQ
* NIEC quarterly reports to the Federal Parliament
* Official NIEC presentations to donor partners and international community;
* IESG BTOR
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| **Output 5**: Development of an enabling electoral legal electoral framework supported  |
| Electoral law adopted | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| sources of evidence* NSC ‘Baidoa Agreement’ on electoral model
* IESG briefing papers on electoral systems
* MOIFAR ELWG reports on consultations and sessions drafting articles of the electoral law
* MOIFAR advisors BTOR
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| **Output 6**: Successful Programme management  |
| unqualified audit report | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| sources of evidence * Auditor reports
* Presentation at PWG-1/SWG-3; Minutes PWG-1/SWG-3
* Prodoc / AWP / LOA
* IESG resource mobilization paper
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| **NARRATIVE****Output 1: NIEC equipped with necessary capacities and structures to prepare for and conduct credible and inclusive elections**Since the its early inception in 2015, IESG provides capacity development support to the NIEC including electoral advice plus technical and budgetary assistance to build a solid and credible independent electoral institution, capable to manage and implement electoral processes according to its mandate and strategic plan. As Somalia did not have any universal elections in the last fifty years, and the preparations for the country’s first universal “one‐person one‐vote” elections since 1969 are an enormously challenging undertaking, institutional capacity development of a strong and independent electoral administration body is a critical foundation.The Joint Programme continued to provide the technical and administrative capacity building and support of the NIEC Secretariat. A series of institutional capacity development programs were implemented during the past months such as electoral capacity development, operational management support, and organizational development through direct technical engagement with NIEC, on-the-job trainings, and specifically designed workshops. All capacity development support builds on the NIEC’s five-year Strategic Plan (2017-2021); which serves as the institution’s roadmap to prepare for universal elections in Somalia, with key focus on: institutional capacity development; electoral legislation and procedures; informing the electorate; voter registration; a level playing field for candidates, parties, media and observers; the conduct of credible, free and fair elections; and a post-election evaluation before initiating the next cycle. *Establishment NIEC Legal Unit, GIS unit, IT unit; organogram structure field offices - HR procedures*In the first half of 2018, the Joint Programme for Electoral Support continued with technical and budgetary support to the NIEC to further develop its Secretariat; such as the establishment of a Legal Unit (recruitment of two legal specialists financed through the LOA), a GIS Unit (geographic information system unit – 8 interns), and an IT Unit (4 interns). As a sign of success, both the GIS and IT interns were incorporated after one month into the NIEC’s staffing structure, paid for by the FGS. Furthermore, with support from the Joint Programme, the NIEC deployed an HR specialist to assist with the development of HR guidelines and training of its HR department. Lastly, IESG has been advising the NIEC on how to establish sub-national offices, including drafting TOR for key personnel in the field and reporting lines.As a reflection of sustainability and national ownership, FGS absorbs 12 interns (4 females) previously supported by the project. \* GIS Unit - In addition to having procured sophisticated GIS hardware -in collaboration with UNDP’s support to the Boundary and Federation Commission (BFC) - the Joint Programme assisted the NIEC with the selection and recruitment of 8 GIS interns and provided them hands-on training to map voter catchment areas for the entire country. Based on satellite images and geographic indicators, the GIS unit facilitates the NIEC with defining voter catchment areas. In a next phase, physical verification of the voter catchment areas will be required by the NIEC to feed into the upcoming operations plan for voter registration. The task of the GIS unit includes the mapping of the country into manageable units for electoral purposes, such as voter registration centres or polling centres.\* IT Unit - In March, IESG assisted the NIEC with the recruitment and training of 4 IT graduates to serve as Database and Software specialists. The interns were selected in cooperation with UNDP’s innovation project and Microsoft. Besides already helping the NIEC with daily IT-related tasks, as soon as the ongoing elections-oriented IT training is completed, the IT interns will be an integral part of the voter registration (VR) planning team and will assist the NIEC with: VR prototypes development, NIEC IT infrastructure planning and specifications, and VR data aggregation planning.*Advisory support*Strengthening the capacity of the NIEC’s Secretariat, the Joint Programme for Electoral Support has been providing budgetary support under the LOA to the recruitment and deployment of certain national advisory positions on a temporary basis: Public Outreach and Communications Advisor; Legal Advisor; Policy and Planning Advisor; Management and Finance Adviser. The deployment of advisors has a temporary character and are supposed to strengthen the NIEC’s capacity in anticipation of its further organizational expansion. L*ogistical and operational support for functioning offices – new website company*Complementing those services paid for by the FGS, the Joint Programme provides procurement and budgetary support to the NIEC’s day-to-day operations to have functioning offices, such as certain hard and software items, internet connection, website design and management, transportation, stationery, printing, etc. *Direct Implementation Modality (LOA) – HACT Assessment*As part of strengthening the NIEC’s administrative and finance systems, the Joint Programme for Electoral Support implements specific aspects of its programme through a letter of agreement (LOA) between the NIEC and UNDP. the LOA enables the NIEC to conduct procurement processes for activities of the workplan funded through UNDP. On 18 and 19 April, UNDP initiated a third-party micro-capacity assessment of the NIEC. Micro-capacity assessments evaluate an implementing partner’s financial management systems and internal controls. This applies to all partners UNDP works with globally, including Government institutions, civil society and private sector partners. Micro-assessments are conducted as per UNDP requirements of a ‘Harmonized Approach for Cash Transfers’ (HACT) of implementing partners. The assessments review the institution’s administrative and financial management system, and help to decide the appropriate cash transfer modality and related assurance activities. The assessment includes recommendations for capacity development of partners. The report of the NIEC’s micro-capacity assessment is to be received in the upcoming period. Amongst other things, a reduced risk rating would possibly enable the NIEC to utilize cash advances under the LOA with UNDP. The NIEC was not been assessed before. South-south cooperationOn 30 April, as a member of the association of Arab Electoral Management Bodies, the Chair of the NIEC, Ms. Halima Ibrahim, attended in Istanbul, Turkey, a conference on the promotion of women in electoral administration. The conference was supported by the UNDP’s Regional Hub for Arab States.From 5 to 7 May, supported by UNDP, the Chair of the NIEC joined an exploratory mission together with other members of electoral management bodies from the Arab region to observe the municipal elections in Tunisia on 6 May 2018. The programme represented a unique opportunity for the representatives of the Arab EMBs to share best practices and experiences in election processes, was a valuable opportunity for the Tunisia Electoral Commission to showcase its experience to regional colleagues, and for the NIEC of Somalia to enhance its understanding of electoral processes. **Output 2: NIEC supported to enhance public awareness of electoral processes, including promotion of women’s participation**To enhance its engagements in the Federal Member States, the NIEC conducted in the first months of 2018 intensive consultations with sub-national stakeholders in the different regions of the country. Traveling to multiple locations in Puntland, Galmudug, Hirshabelle, South-West and Jubaland, the NIEC organized meetings on electoral issues with regional officials, local administration, traditional elders, aspiring political parties, religion leaders, women, youth groups and other civil society movements. It was the first time that the NIEC traveled this extensively within the country to reach out to stakeholders. These dialogues were part of the 90-days regional consultations the NIEC undertook throughout the country and abroad with different national and sub-national stakeholders to facilitate discussions on the preparations for 2020 universal suffrage elections and how to overcome the challenges, as instructed in November 2017 by the National Security Council (NSC) comprising the leadership of the Federal Government and the Federal Member States. In total, the NIEC conducted consultations in more than 30 different locations across Somalia and abroad. The NIEC reached out to approximately 6,000 people, including regional officials, elders, political parties, religious leaders, women and youth groups, and CSOs.Picture Credits: 2 Courtesy NIEC websiteIn late March, the NIEC concluded its consultations with the Somali diaspora community in the US, Canada, Europe and Kenya. The NIEC briefed in June in Baidoa the NSC on its consultations and findings. The NIEC consultations were widely covered on social media as well as on radio and TV.The Joint Programme for Electoral Support provided budgetary and logistical support to the NIEC’s missions in the FMS, assisted with the development of a facilitation guide, provided editorial and translation support for the publication of the NIEC’s comprehensive ‘Consultations Report’, and assisted with the compilation of a video and a media presentation of the different consultations. In addition, the Joint Programme for Electoral Support has been working closely with the NIEC’s newly established Public Outreach unit, particularly with regarding the development of a public outreach strategy and the active use by the NIEC of its website and Facebook and twitter accounts.On 10 and 25 June, the Joint Programme provided assistance to the NIEC’s consultation meetings with local partners on the development and implementation of a voter education curriculum. **Output 3: Support to the NIEC’s electoral operations***Voter registration*In March, the Joint Programme for Electoral Support assisted the NIEC with the development and publication of a comprehensive report both in Somali and English on the voter registration feasibility study, jointly led in late 2017 by the NIEC, IESG and the USAID-funded electoral support BUILD Project. The feasibility study looked into comparative approaches to voter registration, and issues that could potentially impact on the registration process in the specific Somali context. Major challenges are lack of any widespread population or registration data; access and security; political will and consensus; and the current absence of a constitutional and legal framework. In 2018, the NIEC is reviewing all options, and a decision on the preferred methodology is to be consulted with key partners later this year, in order for implementation to commence in early 2019. A minimum level of security to allow access will be a key factor for the success of the voter registration process. From 14 to 16 May, the Joint Programme for Electoral Support organized a workshop for the NIEC on voter registration facilitated by international experts. It was an opportunity for the NIEC to further analyze the outcomes of the Voter Registration Feasibility Study and its implications to inform the strategic and operational decisions in the next months. The workshop included a certified BRIDGE module (Building Resources in Democracy Governance and Elections) on Voter Registration Course, designed and customized to suit the needs of the NIEC. International experts and IESG advisors took participants through an intensive programme covering: Reasons for Registration, Guiding Principles of Voter Registration, Eligibility; Types of Registers, Information Management; Steps to a Final Voter’s List; Operational Considerations; Voter Education; Stakeholders; Information Technology in Voter Registration and Voters Roll Audit. The emphasis was made on the following cross-cutting themes such as access, sustainability, technology, integrity as they relate to the context of the country.*GIS mapping*IESG supported the NIEC with the establishment of a GIS unit (geographic information system unit), which will help the NIEC to define voter catchment areas in the country based on satellite images and geographic indicators. The task of the GIS unit includes the mapping of the country into manageable units for electoral purposes, such as voter registration centres or polling centres. In a next phase, physical verification of the voter catchment areas will be required by the NIEC to feed into the upcoming operations plan for voter registration. With regard to the delimitation of the electoral boundaries, the NIEC will depend on the criteria set in the Constitution and the Electoral Law.Picture Credits: 4 IESG newsletterThrough the provision of a session on GIS mapping, IESG supported from 23 to 25 April the African Union (AU) with a workshop on electoral boundary delimitation. The AU workshop, facilitated by the African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM), was organized in Nairobi, Kenya, for Somali partners to discuss the technicalities on electoral boundary delimitation. Participants included representatives of the NIEC, the Boundary and Federation Commission, the Ministry of Interior, Federal Affairs and Reconciliation (MOIFAR), the Prime Minister’s Office, Office of the President, the Ministry of Constitutional Affairs, as well as some Federal Member States. Experts and electoral administrators from Africa, in particular Kenya, Nigeria, the Democratic Republic of Congo, and Tunisia, facilitated sessions to share experiences, challenges and best practices.*Political party registration*The NIEC has the mandate to oversee and conduct the registration process of political parties in line with the 2016 political parties’ law. The political party registration is envisaged in two phases: temporary registration until registration of voters, followed by official registration based on the submission of the signatories of 10,000 registered voters from minimum 9 of the 18 regions that existed before 1991.On 8 April and 6 June, the National Independent Election Commission (NIEC) awarded temporary registration certificates to different political parties, bringing the total to 15 parties registered to date. The details of the registered political parties are available on the NIEC website ([www.niec.so](http://www.niec.so)).*By-elections*The NIEC successfully organized by-elections for four vacant seats of the Federal House of the People in the first months of 2018 (on 28 January in Jowhar, on 15 February in Kismayo, on 26 February in Mogadishu, and on 15 April in Dhusamareb), concerning specific sub-clans from Hirshabelle, Jubaland, for the Somalilanders, and Galmudug respectively. These were the first electoral operations conducted by the NIEC since its establishment in 2015. The NIEC followed the procedures of the limited franchise electoral process in 2016, including the provision of 51 clan-based voting delegates and a formal candidate campaign period. The UN Integrated Electoral Support Group provided some logistical support and polling and counting training according to the procedures.Details of the sub-clan names, male/female voting delegates, candidates, number of received votes and voting rounds for each of the by-elections are available on the NIEC website http://niec.so/en/election/*Electoral security*The Joint Programme for Electoral Support engages with other UN departments to provide input to the Somalia Security ‘Transition Plan’ which plans for the gradual handover of security responsibility from AMISOM to Somali security institutions in three phases over the next four years, covering the period until elections in 2020/21.Based on good lessons learnt during the 2016 electoral process, IESG in support of the NIEC has been advising to the FGS senior leadership on the need of immediate planning for the elections and to re-establish the Somalia Elections Security Task Force (SESTF) from 2016/17. **Output 4: Establishment of permanent NIEC office facilities**The NIEC is currently based in Mogadishu on a temporary basis within the Government’s premises of Villa Somalia. The Joint Programme for electoral support has been assisting the NIEC to develop and enhance suitable office space inside Villa Somalia, including exploring assistance to refurbish certain rooms provided by the FGS.In the long-run, the UN Integrated Electoral Support Group helps the NIEC with setting up a permanent and independent headquarters outside Villa Somalia. In this respect, beyond the Multi-Partnership Trust Fund (MPTF), the UNSOM/UNDP joint programme has facilitated the construction of Phase 1 of the NIEC’s future headquarters with bilateral support from the Government of Japan and implemented through UNOPS. On 26 March, the NIEC held a ceremony to inaugurate the reinforced perimeter wall of its future headquarters in Mogadishu. The NIEC Chairperson thanked the UN and Japan for the support received in building the perimeter wall, and reiterated that it is essential for the NIEC to establish its offices outside of Government’s premises to guarantee its independence and operationalization. The mobilization of funds to proceed with construction of the future NIEC headquarters is therefore a top priority. The NIEC is also reaching out to traditional and non-traditional donors to assist in the construction of different components of Phase 2 of its future headquarters, such as a multi-functional data-training-media centre, warehouses for storage of sensitive and non-sensitive electoral materials, and the Commissioners and Secretariat offices.In addition, the NIEC is exploring the possibility to establish sub-national offices at the Federal Member States, something that will require further planning and implementation in the second half of 2018. **Output 5: Development of an enabling electoral legal electoral framework supported**Throughout the first half of 2018, the Joint Programme for Electoral Support has been providing in-depth technical assistance to the Ministry of Interior, Federal Affairs, and Reconciliation (MoIFAR) as well as other key interlocutors from the Federal Government and the Parliament on electoral concepts of the different systems of representation. IESG has developed and shared with partners a discussion paper on electoral system issues currently under consideration in the context of Somalia. The paper elaborated on a parliamentary electoral system for Somalia based on proportional representation and closed party list, with different options on the constituencies. The Government’s Roadmap for 2020 elections envisages that the Executive prepares the legislation for the Electoral Law in a consultative manner with the FMS. Once consensus on the system of representation is reached, this will facilitate conclusion of the drafting of the electoral legislation and should safeguard passage of the law by Parliament in the second-half of 2018.Through the provision of an ‘Electoral Law Working Group’ (ELWG) to MOIFAR, comprising 5 to 6 national advisors, the Joint Programme for Electoral Support assists the Ministry with understanding electoral concepts, seeking consensus amongst federal and member state partners, and the drafting of the Electoral Law. The ELWG formed together with other actors from the Federal Government and the NIEC an informal federal-level Electoral Task Force (ETF). The ETF engaged in April with the joint FGS-FMS ‘Technical Committee for the Promotion of Federal Affairs’, which was requested to submit the ‘applicable’ electoral system for Somalia to the next meeting of Somalia’s National Security Council (NSC), comprising Somalia’s Federal Government and the State Presidents.The NSC agreed on 6 June in Baidoa on the electoral model for the federal elections, confirming “one person, one vote” suffrage elections based on political multi-party competition and closed list-proportional representation. The details on the electoral constituency and some other aspects might be further discussed in the next NSC and to be elaborated the Electoral Law. The NSC tasked the relevant government entities to implement the ‘Baidoa Agreement’ and to have the Electoral Law concluded by December 2018. |
| **Other Key Achievements** NA |
| **Challenges (incl: Delays or Deviations) and Lessons Learnt:** After the completion of last year’s electoral process with the inauguration of the new Federal Parliament and President in 2017, the scope of the UN electoral support programme in 2018 focuses on the new electoral cycle assisting Somalia with the preparation of its first universal elections since 1969. The transition from a clan-based system (as in 2016) to ‘one person, one vote’ elections poses big challenges for the country with many uncertainties at this stage. Major challenges identified in the Roadmap for 2020 elections include the development of sound electoral building blocks for this process, such as the establishment of an adequate electoral legal framework, the registration of political parties, an inclusive voter registration exercise, a sound electoral management body, and the set-up of an electoral dispute resolution mechanism. In addition to these core electoral challenges, 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 four years has been formalized to coordinate the higher-level policy issues such as the constitutional review process, the choice of electoral systems, state building, and rule of law. A sub-working group (SWG-3) chaired by the NIEC and the UK was set up in early 2018 as part of the pillar group on Inclusive Politics (PWG-1) co-chaired by EU and Switzerland. |
| **Peacebuilding impact** NA |
| **Catalytic effects** NA |
| **Gender** The UN electoral programme works closely with the UNSOM Gender Unit, UNDP’s Gender Equality and Women Empowerment (UNDP GEWE) project, and civil society organizations including women’s groups to enhance participation of women in electoral processes as potential voters and participants in electoral processes. Targeted activities in support of the NIEC include capacity building of female personnel in electoral administration and field work, including the provision to establish a Gender Unit in the NIEC’s Secretariat. The Joint Programme for Electoral Support has been assisting the NIEC to conduct activities and plan projects to promote participation of women in electoral processes – including as potential voters, candidates and election officials, and as overall participants in electoral processes. |
| Proportion of gender specific outputs in Joint Programme[[4]](#footnote-4) | **Total no. of Joint Programme Outputs** | **Total no. of gender specific Outputs** |
| 5 | 1 |
| Proportion of Joint Programme staff with responsibility for gender issues[[5]](#footnote-5) | **Total no. of Staff** | **Total no. of staff with responsibility for gender issues**  |
| 20 | 2 |
| **Human Rights**Somalia is a signatory of different international and regional treaties and has obliged itself to follow key human rights standards, includes clauses as stipulated in Art 25 of the ICCPR[[6]](#footnote-6) that “*every citizen shall have the right and the opportunity, without unreasonable restrictions, to vote and to be elected at genuine periodic elections which shall be by universal and equal suffrage and shall be held by secret ballot, guaranteeing the free expression of the will of the electors. the right of every citizen to vote*”. The Joint Programme is designed according to this fundamental right with the aim to move the country from a clan-based limited franchise electoral process as in 2016/17 into universal suffrage elections in 2020/2021. Specific objectives in this regard, amongst other, include enhancing the independence of the NIEC, promoting inclusiveness during the voter registration, and ensuring a level playing field for all actors ensured in the different electoral laws.  |
| Has the Joint Programme included a protection risk assessment in its context analysis, including on gender issues, and taken measures to mitigate these risks to ensure they are not exacerbated or new risks created? | **Result (Yes/No)** |
| Yes |
| No. of Joint Programme outputs specifically designed to address specific protection concerns. | **Result (No.)** |
| Several outputs include specific gender components |
| No. of Joint Programme outputs designed to build capacity of duty bearers to fulfil their human rights obligations towards rights holders. | **Result (No.)** |
| 4 |
| **Other** |
| Does the Joint Programmes have a national cost-sharing component (i.e. funds and/or other resources provided by the FGS and/or FMS (including in-kind contributions)? (if ‘Yes’, describe below). | **Results (Yes/No)** |
| No |
| Have FMS(s) been engaged in one or more of the following: design, planning, implementation, coordination and/or monitoring of the Joint Programme. | **Results (Yes/No)** |
| No |
| **Describe nature of cost sharing:** NA |
| **Communications & Visibility** The project disseminates monthly newsletters, which highlight the donor logos, to all partners. Besides regular bilateral meetings with respective donor partners, IESG presented project and electoral updates to the meetings of the Pillar Working Group on Inclusive Governance (PWG-1) and the Sub Working Group on Elections (SWG-3). In addition, the UN Integrated Electoral Support Group (IESG) organized on 9 April an additional coordination meeting with donor partners and other international electoral assistance providers to the NIEC, to share updates and strengthen coordination amongst international partners.In accordance with the EU-UNDP joint Guidelines on Electoral Assistance, the Joint Programme provided each month its input to UNDP’s Global Project for Electoral Cycle Support (GPECS). These monthly global Updates are shared to the EU as part of the EU-UNDP communications and visibility framework for electoral projects. From 20 February until 5 March, the photo exhibition on Electoral Assistance entitled “The Power of Democracy” was launched in the heart of Brussels for a two-weeks period, including a section on Somalia and the ‘2016 electoral process’. The idea of this exhibition is to give visibility and communicate to European citizens the work UNDP, together with the EU, does in the field of governance and in particular regarding electoral support. The overall theme was inclusiveness, with an accent is on the participation of women and youth. See Annex 4 for pictures from the exhibition. In April, the Joint EC-UNDP Task Force on Electoral Assistance, based in Brussels, launched the website on the UN’s electoral assistance to Somalia, supported by the EU. The website aims to inform EU partners and the public at large on the UN’s electoral assistance programme in Somalia, as well as on other EU-supported UNDP electoral projects in the world. <https://somalia.ec-undp-electoralassistance.org/>Banners with donor logos have been designed and used by the NIEC, in particular but not limited to when organizing workshops and posts on social media.On 26 March, the NIEC held a ceremony to inaugurate the reinforced perimeter wall of its future headquarters in Mogadishu. The ceremony was attended by officials and press. The NIEC thanked the UN and the Government of Japan for the support to develop its independent electoral premises. |
| **Looking ahead** Voter registrationIn the upcoming months, it is expected that the NIEC would make a decision on the voter registration methodology. In addition, the NIEC is planning to conduct a field verification exercise of all GIS-mapped voter allocation areas, with the purpose to plan for the establishment of voter registration centres. This decision will determine the voter registration operational plan; a crucial aspect that informs the required resources and which will feed into the envisaged amendment of the Project Document with focus on voter registration in 2019 and 2020. Electoral LawAfter the NSC Agreement in Baidoa on 6 June on the electoral model for the federal elections and the confirmation of “one person, one vote” suffrage elections based on political multi-party competition and closed list-proportional representation, the NSC has tasked the relevant government entities to implement the ‘Baidoa Agreement’ and to have the Electoral Law concluded by December 2018.NIEC Capacity Development - Public Outreach / Stakeholder engagementsThe Joint Programme will continue with providing significant capacity development support to the NIEC. In addition to the current activities, focus will be given to the establishment of the NIEC’s offices at the Federal Member States. Furthermore, the NIEC will be assisted with its continued engagement of stakeholders and the development of a public outreach plan and products.Resource mobilization Progress both on the development of the electoral law as well as on the NIEC’s engagement with partners to determine its voter registration methodology - together with the development of a sound and detailed Voter Registration operations plan - will facilitate the discussions on further resource mobilization post-2018. Achievements in this regard will inform international partners on the required electoral support in 2019 and 2020, starting with the voter registration. Close coordination between national and international partners (NIEC, UN, donor partners, relevant international stakeholders, electoral partners, key actors of the FGS, etc.) will be required to navigate jointly towards the next phases of preparations for the country’s first universal elections since 1969, starting with the preparations for voter registration. Setting out milestones, stock-taking of critical success factors and review of key results area are envisaged to be essential to move forward to Somalia’s path of multi-party universal suffrage elections. In terms of programming, it is essential for the Project to work on commitments from international partners for the funding of the remaining budget in 2018, to ensure that the preparations for voter registration remain on track hand-in-hand with the NIEC strategic plan and decision-making. |

# ANNEX 1. RISK MANAGEMENT

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Type of Risk [[7]](#footnote-7)** | **Description of Risk**  | **Mitigating Measures** |
| Political | There is a risk that the past ‘clan-based’ 2016 electoral process, the political uncertainties in 2017, including on federalism, constitution and political inclusiveness, draws away focus, willingness and resources from the preparations and capacity development required for universal elections. | The Government issued in January 2018 its Roadmap for elections in 2020/2021, confirming its commitment to universal suffrage elections. This commitment was also underscored in the FGS-FMS NSC meetings in February and June 2018. The renewed mandate of UNSOM underscores the UN’s support to universal elections. Based on the recommendations of the NAM, a new Programme outlines the parameters of UN support to universal elections, broken down in different essential building blocks. |
| Political | Risk that limited government capacity and unknown access and effectiveness at the sub-national level affects sound programme implementation, supervision, monitoring and evaluation | The JP for Electoral Support assists the NIEC with its engagements with the FMS and the establishment of sub-national electoral offices.  |
| Security | Risk that political instability, lack of political will, political capacity, and conflicts (including AS) derail the process towards universal elections | Close coordination with security sector, including joint deployment of international security advisor in ROLSIG to provide de-politized polling centre threat assessments. Letter to MoIS to initiate electoral security and reestablish SESTF |
| Operational | Risk that the complexity of conducting operations in Somalia would affect sound programme implementation, supervision, monitoring and evaluation | The JP for electoral support is designed to provide tailored international capacity development to the NIEC, with international advisors in specific electoral niches. |
| Political | Risk that the electoral regulatory framework would not be developed in time affecting progress towards universal elections | The JP for electoral support is designed to provide tailored international advisers one electoral systems, guiding the counterparts throughout entire drafting process of the Law. The NSC Baidoa Agreement in June 2018 provides consensus to move forward the drafting process of the EL.  |
| Security | Security conditions adversely impact the frequency with which UN advisers can work closely with government partners and other stakeholders. | UN to use alternative means such as videoconferencing. The Joint Programme is working with other actors, including agencies, programmes and projects that support the Somali Support to establishment of a security framework and an elections security task force. |
| 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 include an adequate budget for the NIEC in the Government’s annual budget. The Joint Programme is to date funded for 60% for 2018 (reference to IESG resource mobilization paper shared prior to PWG/1)An electoral Needs Assessment Mission (NAM) was conducted that discussed with national and international partners to define the needs for an electoral capacity development framework towards universal elections by 2020.The FGS provided the NIEC a budget in 2018 for its staffing costs and some regular expenses. |
| 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. | The NAM has underlined inclusivity as a key element for the UN in the preparations for future universal elections.Within the guidance of the Government and federal institutions, project supports consultative forums with the public, and works with media to ensure adequate information sharing and transparency on the process.  |
| 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  | The NAM has underlined inclusivity as a key element for the UN in the preparations for future universal elections.Within the guidance of the Government and federal institutions, project supports consultative forums with the public, and works with media to ensure adequate information sharing and transparency on the process. |
| Inclusive Politics | Risk that duty-bearers do not have the capacity to meet their obligations in the Project | The UN strategy on future universal elections looks into rights-holders and their capacity to claim their rights. |
| Inclusive Politics | Risk that rights-holders do not have the capacity to claim their rights | Project activities have gender components, gender plans and these are considered through all project activities. For example, trainings on “Gender Responsive Elections”. There is collaboration amongst UN gender experts and focal persons from the Joint Programme for Electoral Support, the UNSOM/UNDP Rule of Law & Security Institutions Group (ROLSIG), the UN Resident Coordination Office (RCO) and UNDP CO on gender concerns. |
| Inclusive Politics | Risk that the proposed Project would have adverse impacts on gender equality and/or the situation of women and girls | Project activities have gender components, gender plans and these are considered through all project activities. For example, trainings on “Gender Responsive Elections”. There is collaboration amongst UN gender experts and focal persons. |

#  ANNEX 2. MONITORING AND OVERSIGHT ACTIVITIES

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Monitoring Activity**  | **Date**  | **Description & Comments** | **Key Findings / Recommendations** |
| PWG-1 / SWG-3 steering committee meetings | 12 Feb (SWG-3); 29 May (SWG-3); 30 May (PWG-1)  | PWG discussed and approved the 2018 Work Plans and budget funding of the UNDP/UNSOM JP for Electoral Support  | Presentations and Meeting minutes |
| NIEC HACT Assessment | April 2018 | Third party institutional micro-capacity assessment of the NIEC to determine fiduciary risk level and UNDP cash transfer modalities  | Final report to be released |
| Project DIM Audit | May 2018 | Unqualified findings | Final report to be released |
| IESG Field Missions to Puntland, South-West, Jubbaland  | January, May, June  | IESG deployed field missions to Garowe, Baidoa and Kismayo in assistance of NIEC establishment of sub-national elections and assessment of possible UN support in the sections for electoral operations | BTOR |

**ANNEX 3. TRAINING DATA**

| **#** | **Target Group** | **Dates** | **# of participants** | **Title of the training** | **Location of training** | **Training provider** |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Ministry. District or UN staff** | **Others** |
| **M** | **F** | **Total** |
|  | NIEC |  | February | 10 | 2 | 12 | By-election procedures | Mogadishu | IESG |
|  | MOIFAR |  | February | 4 | 1 | 5 | Electoral systems of representation | Mogadishu | IESG |
|  | NIEC |  | March onwards | 6 | 2 | 8 | GIS mapping voter catchment areas | Mogadishu | IESG |
|  | NIEC |  | March onwards | 3 | 1 | 4 | IT in electoral operations | Mogadishu | IESG |
|  | FGS Electoral Task Force (NIEC – MOIFAR -BFC – OPM -etc.) |  | April | 18 | 5 | 23 | Boundary Delimitation | Nairobi | African Union (with IESG-GIS input) |
|  | NIEC - MOIFAR |  | 14-16 May | 35 | 12 | 47 | Voter Registration | Mogadishu | IESG |
|  | NIEC  |  | May | 4 | 1 | 5 | Introduction on electoral legislation and procedures | Mogadishu | IESG |
| **Totals:** | 80 | 24 | 104 |  |  |  |

1. **Uncertified expenditures**. Certified annual expenditures can be found in the Annual Financial Report of MPTF Office (<http://mptf.undp.org/factsheet/fund/4SO00> ) [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. The UN Integrated Electoral Support Group (IESG) is the entity that manages the MPTF-financed Joint Programme for Electoral Support; as well as a bilateral project funded by the GOJ for construction of the NIEC HQ. [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. Fill in only the numbers or yes/no; no explanations to be given here. [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
4. Gender Specific Outputs are those that are specifically designed to directly and explicitly contribute to the promotion of Gender Equality and Women’s Empowerment. [↑](#footnote-ref-4)
5. Staff members are those contracted to undertaken work for the Joint Programme including full time staff, consultants, advisors, interns, etc. Staff members with responsibility for gender issues are those who have gender related activities included in their Terms of Reference. [↑](#footnote-ref-5)
6. International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR) - ratified by Somalia in 1990 [↑](#footnote-ref-6)
7. Environmental; Financial; Operational; Organizational; Political; Regulatory; Security; Strategic; Other. [↑](#footnote-ref-7)