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PROGRAMME SEMI-ANNUAL PROGRESS REPORT

Period: 1 January – 30 June 2020

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 (MPTFO Project ID)
Start date	1 January 2018
Planned end date	31 December 2020
Focal Person	Irfan Mahmood Email: irfan.mahmood@undp.org Cell No: +252 (0) 619600073
Participating UN entities	UNDP and UNSOM (PAMG)
NDP-9 Pillar	Pillar 1: Inclusive Politics
UNSF Strategic Priority	Deepening federalism and state-building, supporting conflict resolution and reconciliation, & preparing for universal elections
Location(s)	National Programme
Gender Marker	2

Total Budget as per ProDoc	USD 13,318,300
MPTF:	USD 12,756,269.56
Non-MPTF sources:	PBF: Zero Trac: USD 1,960,289.50 Other (DFID): 1,931,613.18

	PUNO	Report approved by:	Position/Title	Signature
1.	PWG-1 - UNDP	Jacqueline Olweya	OIC – RR	

Total MPTF Funds Received			Total non-MPTF Funds Received	
PUNO	Reporting Period	Cumulative	Reporting Period	Cumulative
	1 Jan – 30 Jun	From prog. start date	1 Jan – 30 Jun	From prog. start date
UNDP	5,144,550.10	12,756,269.56	0	3,891,902.68

JP Expenditure of MPTF Funds¹			JP Expenditure of non-MPTF Funds	
PUNO	Reporting Period	Cumulative	Reporting Period	Cumulative
	1 Jan – 30 Jun	From prog. start date	1 Jan – 30 Jun	From prog. start date
UNDP	2,300,859.06	6,414,765.50	525,573.24	3,465,776.98

¹ **Uncertified expenditures.** Certified annual expenditures can be found in the Annual Financial Report of MPTF Office (<http://mptf.undp.org/factsheet/fund/4SO00>)



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SEMI-ANNUAL HIGHLIGHTS

1. On 20 Feb 2020, the President of the Federal Republic of Somalia, signed the electoral bill into law - NATIONAL ELECTORAL LAW AT FEDERAL LEVEL;
2. Construction of NIEC Data Center completed and handed over to NIEC on 28 May 2020 to support electoral operations for the 2020/2021 elections;
3. IESG provided support to the National Independent Electoral Commission (NIEC) and to the Joint Parliamentary Ad Hoc Committee on Elections in providing options and advice on the 4 key issues that required clarification in the Electoral Law. The Committee presented its report to the House of the People on 17 June and the House adopted the four resolutions by 30 June ;
4. IESG used the good offices of the UN to encourage the Speaker of the House of the People to introduce the Amendments to the Political Parties law which was pending since May 2019. The bill is currently at committee stage in Parliament ;
5. At NIEC's request, IESG provided technical support to the NIEC's preparations for their report on preparations and options for the upcoming federal elections to the House of the People on 27 June.

HIGHLIGHTS OF KEY ACHIEVEMENTS

In February 2020, the Somali Federal Parliament adopted the electoral bill, which was signed into Law by the President of the Federal Republic of Somalia. The Electoral Law proposes a new first-past-the-post electoral system with 275 constituencies in the House of the People and 54 Upper House seats. However, several key issues required clarification for the law to be implementable and Parliament established a joint ad hoc committee to formulate recommendations to address key issues in the Law, in consultation with the NIEC, the federal member states and other stakeholders. The IESG supported discussions between the ad hoc committee and the NIEC from 31 March to 2 April. The committee presented its recommendations to the House of the People on 17 June. The Speaker of the Upper House called for broad consultations and political consensus between all political stakeholders on the 2020/21 elections, while the Speaker of the House of the People continued to emphasize the primacy of parliament to decide on the electoral modality and proceeded to pass resolutions on the four key articles in the electoral law by 30 June. The Upper House did not participate in the process. The resolutions guaranteed a minimum of 24 per cent women's representation in Parliament; allocated thirteen additional seats to the Upper House for representation of the Banaadir region and which will require an amendment to the provisional constitution; outlined a separate modality for electing members of both Houses from "Somaliland" and confirmed the allocation of seats to constituencies for both Houses.

On 27 June, the NIEC presented its report on preparations and options for the upcoming federal elections to the House of the People. The two options proposed for the conduct of parliamentary elections included same day paper-based voter registration and polling, which would take place in March 2021, and elections with standard biometric voter registration, with polls in August 2021. Following NIEC's presentation, there were increasing calls from a wide range of stakeholders, including from the federal member state leaders, Speaker of the Upper House of Parliament, civil society organizations and political party representatives to engage in inclusive dialogue on elections.

IESG used the good offices of the UN to repeatedly encourage the Speaker of the House of the People to introduce the Amendments to the Political Parties law which was pending since May 2019. The first reading was held on 10 June and is currently at committee stage in Parliament. The delay in passing the amendments to this Law adversely impacts the deadlines for political parties to receive official registration and nominate candidates. NIEC provided provisional registration to 19 political parties during the reporting period. This brings the total number of parties provisionally registered to 82 on 30 June.

IESG provided support for the construction of a Data Centre at the NIEC's compound in Mogadishu. Construction began on 28 October 2019, and on 28 May 2020 the keys to the Data Centre have been handed over to NIEC. The Data Centre is part of the operational support provided by the UN to enable the NIEC to efficiently conduct electoral operations for the upcoming elections. Financial support of US\$ 835,922 was provided through the Multi-Partner Trust Fund (MPTF). IESG continues to oversee and coordinate other UN entities who are supporting the construction of an Electoral Dispute Resolution Centre and a Warehouse at the site.

IESG continues to provide both technical and logistical support to the NIEC. In late March, the NIEC issued work-from-home orders to its staff following government restrictions due to the COVID-19 pandemic. While most of the IESG staff are working from home, IESG continues to communicate internally and to provide daily technical support to NIEC staff across the broad spectrum of electoral activities, using the communications tools such as WebEx, Zoom and Microsoft teams. IESG provided zoom licenses to both the NIEC and the Parliamentary Ad



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Hoc Committee to enable them to continue their work, communicate, coordinate and exchange information with all stakeholders efficiently through electronic/virtual means.

SITUATION UPDATE

On 22 June 2020, the UN Security Council adopted resolution 2527, extending the mandate of the United Nations Assistance Mission in Somalia (UNSOM) until 31 August 2020. To strengthen the coordination of the international community on the required technical support for the NIEC’s electoral preparations, the NIEC and IESG held a series of electoral information sharing meetings with international electoral stakeholders (15 January, 24 February, 7 April, and 19 May). The meetings were jointly chaired by the Deputy Special Representative for the United Nations Assistance Mission in Somalia (DSRSG) and the NIEC Chairperson. In April, IESG introduced to international partners its new Chief, Mr. Deryck Fritz, who has extensive electoral experience with the UN system and EMBs.

Since the beginning of the COVID-19 crisis, there has been much speculation among various stakeholders about the possible postponement of the elections, and the subsequent impact on the legitimacy and constitutionality of the legislative and executive bodies. However, the overriding political objective has not changed: the timely conduct of one-person-one-vote elections. Political agreement among the political actors is essential to ensure agreement on the electoral process.

Following NIEC’s instructions in late March to all staff to work from home and while most of IESG’s staff are also working from home, including national staff, IESG continues to provide technical advice to the NIEC with regard to different options and scenarios that may be considered to hold the elections as close as possible to the constitutional timelines while mitigating the impact of COVID-19 on the electoral process. The project focused on the following goals over the past six months:

- Support to NIEC meetings with Joint Parliamentary Ad Hoc Committee on the Electoral Law;
- Support NIEC to prepare its operational plan to present to the Parliament;
- Support to NIEC in preparing plans for creation of Electoral Dispute Mechanism committee;
- Review of NIEC Corporate Governance Framework in order to institutionalize Corporate Governance in the operations of the NIEC;
- Support to NIEC to conduct public outreach activities through use of media including new media in its programming to support electoral process;
- Continuation of support for construction of new NIEC compound and infrastructure;
- Support to NESTF on preparing its workplan, conducting security assessment of the provisional voter registration sites in the Federal Member States (FMS) and in the Banadir Region, which will drive the preparations of the security operations budget;
- Procurement of equipment and furniture for NIEC compound and NESTF operations.

SEMI-ANNUAL 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.			
Output 1: The institutional capacity of the NIEC is strengthened			
INDICATOR	TARGET	PROGRESS ON OUTPUT INDICATOR²	
		REPORTING PERIOD	CUMULATIVE
1.1. NIEC support operationalized at FMSs level and Banadir	NIEC institutional structure strengthened including NIEC presence in the FMS (6 locations)	6	6
1.2. Technical capacity of NIEC staff increased (target: demonstrated capacity during roll-out of electoral operations)	NIEC operational capacity development and training plan developed to conduct operations both at HQ and field level	Yes	Yes
Sources of evidence: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ NIEC quarterly progress reports for Q1 and Q2 ○ NIEC 5-year Strategic Plan (2017-2021) ○ Social Media articles: NIEC Website (www.niec.so); NIEC Facebook page; NIEC twitter; UNSOM/UNDP Facebook page, twitter 			

² Fill in only the numbers or yes/no; no explanations to be given here.



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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Official documents signed between UNDP and the NIEC (Work Plan, Letter of Agreement) ○ Training and workshop reports/materials ○ NIEC advisor monthly reports ○ IESG staff back to office reports ○ IESG Newsletters 			
Output 2: NIEC supported to enhance public awareness of electoral processes, including promotion of women's participation			
2.1. Development of NIEC Voter Education strategy for elections including voter registration, including specific provisions for women's engagement.	NIEC Voter Education operational plan for the electoral process including Voter Registration phase developed and shared with NIEC Field Offices and stakeholders.	Yes (on-going)	Yes (on-going)
2.2. No. of NIEC stakeholder sessions, plus number of sessions specifically on women participation in electoral processes.	Develop and implement inclusive NIEC external relations strategy with key stakeholders, such as political parties, universities, CSOs including women and youth associations, media.	Yes (on-going)	Yes (on-going)
Sources of evidence: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ NIEC quarterly progress reports for Q1 and Q2 ○ NIEC quarterly reports to the Somali Federal Parliament ○ Social Media articles: NIEC Website (www.niec.so); NIEC Facebook page; NIEC twitter; UNSOM/UNDP Facebook page, twitter ○ Official documents signed between UNDP and the NIEC (Work Plan, Letter of Agreement) ○ Training and workshop reports/materials ○ NIEC advisor monthly reports ○ IESG staff back to office reports ○ IESG Newsletters 			
Output 3: Support to the NIEC's electoral operations			
3.1. NIEC conducts Political Parties registration and candidate nomination process	Political Parties enabled to achieve official registration by NIEC.	19 (provisional)	82 (provisional)
3.2. % of potential voter registration /polling areas and centres verified (target: 100% in all secure areas)	Voter registration/polling centres in identified secured areas vetted by security forces	Yes (on-going)	Yes (on-going)
3.3. Comprehensive voter registration plan developed, including technical measures to enhance women's registration and participation in elections if held in 2020.	NIEC VR plan fully developed and implemented.	Yes (on-going)	Yes (on-going)
3.4. Comprehensive operations plans for polling developed if elections held in 2020-21.	NIEC polling plan fully developed and implemented.	Yes (on-going)	Yes (on-going)
3.5. NIEC acquires necessary equipment and materials to conduct voter registration (and polling)	NIEC successfully supported in the procurement of necessary voter registration (and polling) material and equipment	No	No
Sources of evidence: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ NIEC certification political parties ○ NIEC operational plans for VR; updates on GIS mapping of voter catchment areas ○ IESG workshops materials for NIEC Voter Registration (VR) planning ○ 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. ○ IESG staff reports and IESG electoral operations planning ○ Training and workshop reports/materials ○ NIEC advisor monthly reports ○ NESTF reports ○ IESG Newsletters 			
Output 4: Establishment of permanent NIEC office facilities			



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4.1. Establishment of permanent NIEC office facilities	NIEC Data Centre to be completed by second quarter 2020	Yes	Yes
	Construction on central warehouse, Electoral Dispute Resolution Mechanism building and enhanced security protection for the NIEC compound to begin in second quarter of 2020.	Yes (on-going)	Yes (on-going)
Sources of evidence: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Document of handover of NIEC Data Center to NIEC o Construction reports from UN entities 			
Output 5: Development of an enabling electoral legal electoral framework supported			
Electoral law	Electoral Law adopted by Parliament, signed by the President, published in Official Gazette and enforced	Yes	Yes
Regulations drafted to complete electoral law on Constituencies, Women's Quota, the Upper House seat distribution and on Somaliland as required by the Electoral Law, and necessary procedures to implement these processes drafted.	Regulations adopted	Yes (On-going)	Yes (On-going)
Procedures and regulations drafted on electoral process: Voter Registration, Political Party Registration and Candidate Nomination, Observers, Political Party Agents and Media Accreditation, on Dispute resolution, and Polling and Counting, electoral dispute resolution mechanism.	Procedures and regulations on electoral process finalized. Electoral Dispute Resolution Mechanism procedures finalized.	Ongoing	Ongoing
	Amendments to Political Parties Law adopted by Parliament.	No	No
Sources of evidence: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Parliament passed the electoral bill on 19th February o Bill signed into Law by the President of FGS on 20th February o NIEC briefings and reports on electoral law o NIEC briefings and report on Amendments to Political Parties Law. 			
Output 6: Successful Programme management Support			
Unqualified audit report	Project unqualified audit report	Yes	Yes
Quality and timeliness of support services for electoral activities	Thorough implementation of the agreed Work Plan and responsible resource management	Yes (On-going)	Yes (On-going)
	Support services for electoral activities are provided in a timely and qualitative manner.	Yes (on-going)	Yes (on-going)
Sources of evidence: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Audit reports o Third Party Monitoring and Spot Checks o Progress Reports o Project document / AWP / LOA o Meeting with donors and NIEC 			



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NARRATIVE

Preparations for the country's first universal "one-person one-vote" elections since 1969 are an enormously challenging undertaking and institutional capacity development of a strong and independent electoral administration body is a critical foundation. IESG has been supporting NIEC by providing: (a) advice and direct support on the strategic direction of electoral administration, management and operations in preparation for the 2020/2021 universal suffrage elections, and (b) facilitating the NIEC's technical preparations and operations including voter registration and polling. IESG aims to support NIEC to ensure the effective and efficient delivery of electoral process in Somalia through an adequate organizational infrastructure that is efficient and effective. IESG has continued to provide capacity development support to the NIEC including electoral technical advisory support and budgetary assistance to build a solid and credible independent electoral institution, capable of planning and managing electoral processes according to its mandate and strategic plan.

Output 1: The institutional capacity of the NIEC is strengthened:

IESG continued to provide the technical and administrative capacity building and support to the NIEC Secretariat including the Board of Commissioners. A series of institutional capacity development programs were implemented during the reporting period 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 including online courses.

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; creating a level playing field for candidates, parties, media and observers and the conduct of credible, free and fair elections. Capacity building trainings were delivered to the NIEC Field staff in all Federal Member States including induction workshops for NIEC staff on aspects of the legislative framework on the Constitutional mandate of the NIEC, NIEC Law and Political Party Law; the Electoral Cycle as a Planning Tool in Electoral Administration; Voter Registration Principles, Purpose, Developing a VR Operational Plan and VR Activities; Logistics in Electoral Operations; Public Outreach Activities; Electoral Systems, Tabulation of Electoral Results and Seat Allocation and Models of Electoral Dispute Mechanisms). NIEC staff undertook electoral administration on-line courses and some staff completed all courses and obtained certificates. Courses included a) Enhancing Women's Participation in the Electoral Cycle b) Electoral Results Management c) ICT and Elections Management d) Sustainability in Electoral Administration e) Youth Participation in Electoral Processes f) Reinforcing Credibility and Acceptance of Electoral Processes.

To enhance the NIEC's electoral capacity and knowledge, IESG organized a simulation exercise based on the draft electoral law for the NIEC Board of Commissioners and senior members of the secretariat on tabulation of the voting data, consolidating and reporting results from polling station level to polling center and then to NIEC HQ. The main objective of the activity was to demonstrate the practical application of the legislative requirements and identify appropriate administrative processes that promote transparency. On 10 March, IESG conducted simulation exercise on UH Election Options, vote counting, tallying and how to identify spoiled and invalid votes. These capacity building activities were conducted for the NIEC to demonstrate challenges presented by the legal framework and to support the proposed amendments to the electoral law. The NIEC Training Unit received training on how to develop ToRs for electoral operations staff, developing recruitment and training strategies and training workplans. Since the Covid-19 pandemic, trainings have been organized virtually through zoom and through supporting on-line courses for NIEC staff. There are regular meetings to provide support to staff who are undertaking on-line courses and to provide related technical advice. Sixty members of the NIEC Headquarters staff and twenty field-based staff enrolled for nine courses in electoral operations and administration. Twenty-eight staff from different departments within the NIEC headquarters along with eight field staff passed all courses to obtain certificates. Staff are supporting one another to bridge the language gap as they strive to complete the courses. The level of participation and enthusiasm for this type of training during the current COVID-19 restrictions demonstrates that virtual training supported by IESG staff is viewed by Somali participants as having substantial value.

IESG has supported NIEC in establishing its field offices in each of the FMS and Banadir (except Somaliland) in order to implement its mandate throughout the country. IESG provides the technical advisory support and operations management to NIEC field staff and offices including provision of provision of vehicles, equipment and furniture, office supplies etc. to assist NIEC preparations for electoral operations in the FMS. However, two FMSs, Puntland and Jubaland, have issued instructions to the NIEC to temporarily close the NIEC offices due to their political



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differences with the Federal Government. Negotiations continue between the NIEC and the two FMS to allow their offices resume daily operations.

As part of strengthening the NIEC's administrative and financial systems, the Joint Programme for Electoral Support implements specific aspects of its programme through a Letter of Agreement (LOA) with the NIEC that includes a budget of USD 1,004,600.00 for 2020. The LOA enables the NIEC to directly implement certain activities by directly administering the budget, resources and conducting procurement processes as per the regulations. IESG provides technical advisory support to strengthen NIEC's Directorate of Administration and Finance to ensure effective management of budget, resources, HR and procurement related activities follow all the necessary regulations and procedures to meet the requirements of the LOA. The NIEC in collaboration with IESG established the International Assistance Partners Group which meets on a monthly basis to discuss progress on implementation of assistance to NIEC. The purpose of the group is to ensure coherence in support, complementarity and avoid duplication of effort among the partners providing technical assistance support to the NIEC. Five sub/working groups have been formed to take forward complementary support activities focused on specific thematic areas such as: Gender mainstreaming, Public Outreach and Communications, Political Party liaison, Security, and Capacity Building/Institutional Strengthening & Professional Development. The Political Party working group held its first meeting on 14 May. This group is co-chaired by the NIEC Political Parties Registrar and IRI. The Gender working group held their first meeting on 19 May with gender electoral assistance providers, co-chaired by NIEC Gender advisor and UNWOMEN. The Public Outreach working group held its first meeting in June.

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 and with women's groups, the NIEC conducted intensive consultations with stakeholders in Mogadishu and the different regions of the country. The NIEC visited each of the federal member states and discussed with leaders and civil society groups including women's groups on the progress towards holding 'one person, one vote' elections in 2020/21. The NIEC continued to meet with various political parties to update the parties on NIEC's preparations and to encourage parties to prepare for official registration by developing their organizations according to the known legal requirements.

NIEC's civic education campaign on the electoral process reached most of its intended audience across the country. Both Maay and Maxaaay languages were used in certain areas of the country to ensure the messages reached as many citizens as possible and helped to raise awareness about the electoral process, civic responsibility and increased debate among citizens, including among social media users. Acknowledging the importance of media engagement in enhancing the integrity and transparency of the elections, the NIEC actively engaged with the media by conducting briefings to discuss NIEC's electoral plans. On 2 February 2020 the NIEC conducted a briefing session for the media to raise awareness on the electoral process, provide up-dates on NIEC preparations for the one-person-one vote election and to build a network of reliable stakeholders who can deliver timely and reliable information to the electorate since they have access to and are the link to the electorate, as elections will be one of the main topics discussed in the media this year. NIEC recognizes the need to ensure the media has accurate information regarding preparations for the electoral process. Participants included both men and women. The NIEC also conducted a series of nation-wide public service broadcasts on civic education over a 5 week period in February/March to sensitize citizens about the requirements for voter registration using key TV and radio which is an effective way to reach communities as these two mediums have the largest reach throughout the country and also using social media. The PSAs generated considerable debate among the public. PSAs served a useful public awareness campaign for information sharing about elections. Radio is a key medium in reaching out to a large segment of the population as it is the most popular medium for people to receive messages especially outside of Mogadishu. IESG continues to provide advice and support to the NIEC Public Outreach department on the planning of voter education activities for the 2020/2021 elections. The implementation phase will commence once the legal framework is finalized and adopted.

On 4th March 2020, NIEC organized a discussion forum in Mogadishu with youth to increase awareness of their contribution to the electoral process. Youth make up about 70% of the estimated population and are a key target group for the NIEC to encourage their participation in the elections. During Q1, NIEC conducted 25 events (face to face outreach events and Q&A meetings) in Hirshabelle, Galmudug and South West states by delivering 15 outreach sessions and 10 Q & A meetings for members of parliament, political parties, civil society including women and youth groups to increase awareness about voter registration, role of political parties, importance of including women's participation in politics, role of youth, media, viability of election timeframe and significance of security to ensure a safe environment for the elections as well as the need to have political consensus between the FGS and FMS and all stakeholders to hold elections on time. The women and youth acknowledged that the only option they have to make their voices heard is to get involved in political parties and to exercise their right to vote.

Regular virtual exchanges with the Office of Political Parties Registrar (OPPR) has been established during the second quarter following the new way of working due to the COVID-19 pandemic. In particular, in cooperation with the Legal team, IESG has begun discussions to outline



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the upcoming processes of Political Parties Candidate Nomination and accreditation of Observers, Political Parties agents and media representatives with the OPR and NIEC's legal team. OPR is currently focusing on registration of political parties, currently 82 provisionally registered parties and on drafting procedures to enable parties permanent registration. On 4 June, the Office of the Registrar of Political Parties held a virtual meeting with about 70 political parties to take stock of the parties activities as they prepare for the upcoming elections. Holding virtual meetings by the OPR was a major shift from direct interaction with the parties and was an example of NIEC adapting quickly to a different way of working. IESG continues to provide advice to the OPR on procedures which will allow for a faster verification of the basic criteria that political parties have to meet for official registration. The next phase of the process will only be implemented fully once the Amendments to the Political Parties Law are finally adopted by Parliament which is likely to happen in the next quarter.

Output 3: Support to the NIEC's electoral operations:

IESG provided ongoing support to the NIEC in drafting operational documents in preparation for elections including voter registration. IESG and NIEC jointly developed a draft voter registration plan as well as other key logistic documents such as the logistics movement plan, a recruitment and training strategy for NIEC temporary operations staff, as well as a series of logistic SOPs covering areas such as the management of the NIEC vehicle fleet. IESG continued its support in building the capacity of the NIEC personnel at HQ and field office level by providing online courses for NIEC staff during the COVID 19 pandemic. IESG provided the NIEC with technical support for the NIEC's identification and mapping of potential voter registration sites and assisted the NIEC in designing an online mapping tool which will be used by both the NIEC and the National Electoral Security Task Force (NESTF) to jointly finalize the list of voter registration sites after the security forces have vetted the tentative list of locations established by the NIEC. IESG supported the NESTF on preparing its workplan, planning the conduct of security assessments of the provisional voter registration sites in the Federal Member States (FMS) and in the Banadir Region, which will drive the preparations of the security operations budget. IESG provided technical and financial support to the establishment and operationalization of the NESTF including funding for the establishment of the NESTF Secretariat infrastructure as well as technical inputs in the draft concept of operation to secure voter registration. IESG Field Offices will provide technical support to the NIEC Field Offices in facilitating the establishment of the Local Security Committees at FMS levels when feasible.

The NIEC has adapted a Google Maps application to be used as a tool to map the potential locations of the voter registration and polling sites. The mapping tool allows the user to have a high-level view of the sites and then be able to zoom in to view each site and its surrounding buildings, roads and other features and see them on the map and with a satellite image. The intention is for the security planners to use the tool to match their forces to sites and refine the lists of the voter registration and polling sites to those that they are confident can be secured and protected. This tool has particular benefits for planning during the current COVID-19 pandemic restrictions on movement and assembly. The mapping tool is owned by the NIEC who will grant access to selected users through a password protection system.

Output 4: Establishment of permanent NIEC office facilities:

In May 2020, the Joint Programme for Electoral Support completed the construction of the NIEC's new data center and handed over the keys of the building to NIEC on 28 May 2020. The new data center is part of the operational support provided by the UN to enable the NIEC to efficiently conduct the electoral operations for the upcoming elections. USD 835,922,00 for construction of the data center was made available through DFID and MPTF funded by EU, Germany, Norway, SIDA and USAID. The data centre is part of a range of infrastructure assistance including ongoing construction of a hard wall warehouse for storage of sensitive and non-sensitive electoral materials supported by UNSOM/UNSOS and the construction of an Electoral Dispute Resolution Centre by UNOPS with support provided by the UN Peacebuilding Fund. Construction of these two buildings is expected to be completed by the last quarter of 2020.

Output 5: Development of an enabling electoral legal framework supported:

President Mohamed Abdullahi Mohamed "Farmaajo" signed the electoral bill into Law on 20 February 2020 following passage by Parliament of the draft electoral bill on 19 February. The Speakers of both Houses of Parliament observed the historic occasion along with a number of dignitaries including the Prime Minister and members of the cabinet. The law has a number of gaps and contains provisions that make it difficult to implement. There is no provision to guarantee women's 30 per cent quota to ensure women's representation in the parliament.

On 28 February, in Mogadishu, the Speakers of both Houses of the Federal Parliament appointed a 17-member Joint Ad-Hoc Committee to draft recommendations to complement the Electoral Law, which is not implementable by the NIEC in its current form. The Committee met for the first time on 22 March to review four key legislative issues in the electoral law: a) Seats allocation for both Houses of Parliament (constituency); b. Women's quota; c) Election of members of the two Houses hailing from the Northern Regions ("Somaliland"); d)



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Representation rights of Banadir region. The Committee was instructed to cooperate with the NIEC and consult with the Federal Member States (FMS) and other stakeholders.

Support has been provided to the NIEC by IESG in order to advise the Joint Committee of both Houses of Parliament. Part of this support included convening an advisory panel on elections that met from 29 Feb to 5 March, to offer independent advice to the NIEC on options for implementation on key issues and challenges in the Electoral Law and Political Parties law that require resolution to operationalize elections. In addition, the law has a number of technical specifications that present major challenges to implementation. The panel was tasked to present feasible technical options to deal with each of the issues and identify which issues required a political solution. It offered support to the NIEC to ensure that critical political stakeholders including political parties and civil society were briefed on suggested resolutions and regulations to build consensus to make recommendations for endorsement by the FGS, Parliament and FMS leaders. The panel, which included IESG, advised the NIEC by providing for instance, a draft regulation based on an implementation model and requirements for a flexibility clause that would enable the NIEC to deviate from the legal framework in order to implement the envisaged seat allocation process.

On 30 March, with the technical and financial support of IESG, the NIEC met with the Committee for three days where they discussed the electoral issues at length. The Committee took note of the options and recommendations provided by the NIEC on the various issues. The NIEC had the opportunity to outline the technical issues that need to be harmonized in the Political Parties Law including the Amendments to the Political Parties Law which was not tabled in Parliament at that time. The Committee was to present their report to Parliament by mid-April but due to delay in resumption of Parliament as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, the Committee's report was presented to MPs on 17 June.

The House of the People passed resolutions clarifying the four key articles by the end of June. The Speaker of the House of the People justified the passage of the resolutions under Article 47 of the Provisional Constitution giving authority to the House of the People to regulate electoral legislation. His decision to facilitate the debate in the House of the People rather than in a joint sitting of Parliament caused tensions between both Houses.

The Amendments to the Political Parties law received its first reading in the House of the People on 10 June and was referred to the Committee on Internal Affairs, Regional Administration and Security for review and consultation with stakeholders. IESG provided advice to NIEC by reviewing and commenting on the Political Parties Law (PPL) and the proposed amendments to the law. The NIEC submitted a comprehensive assessment of the issues that required amending or modification to the parliamentary committee working on the revision of the Political Parties Law. On 30th June, NIEC Board of Commissioners and senior management met with the Committee to deliberate on amendments to the Political Party Law.

On the basis of advice provided by IESG, the NIEC decided to implement a two-tier EDR decision making process, at field level and central headquarters level. This EDR related outcome has been achieved through the following activities: (1) Several virtual discussions between IESG and NIEC legal teams (on a weekly basis) and virtual meetings and presentations between IESG and NIEC leadership in June 2020 and (2) Providing advice on drafting several EDR related documents, such as: ToRs for the NIEC EDR committee and department, rationale in relation to the number of EDR staff to be temporarily hired, legal analysis on the role of the Supreme Court in the electoral process. Concepts of operation for EDR were drafted for two different operational scenarios, legal analysis of EDR provisions affected by up to five different operational scenarios, samples on EDR related provisions for legislating operational scenarios, budget and timelines for different operational scenarios.

Furthermore, IESG legal team provided advice the NIEC counterparts on electoral observation and accreditation procedures, codes of conduct and political party registration procedures during the reporting period.

Other Key Achievements: N/A

COVID-19 response:

IESG provided daily technical support to NIEC staff across the broad spectrum of electoral activities, using the teleconferencing tools such as WebEx, Zoom and Microsoft teams to facilitate meetings with all stakeholders. IESG in collaboration with NIEC, prepared a series of documents in both English and Somali for the NIEC's Board of Commissioners consideration. These documents include:

- Coronavirus Policy and Coronavirus Protocol
- Business Continuity Policy, Business Continuity Plan and Business Continuity Checklist
- Sexual Harassment Policy and Procedures



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- Questions & Answers on COVID-19
- Various reporting templates

On 9 May, NIEC held a virtual ceremony for the temporary registration of six new political parties which brought the total number of temporarily registered parties to 82. One of the six newly registered parties is led by a woman who is an activist for the minority communities. NIEC has quickly adapted to the new way of working virtually as the Political Parties Registrar and his staff held the certification ceremony through teleconferencing when awarding the certificates of registration to the parties. The NIEC plans to conduct extensive online outreach meetings with political parties as part of their oversight responsibilities and to strengthen their relationship with the parties.

Since the Covid-19 pandemic, flexible work arrangements for IESG and NIEC staff were made to protect staff and to help combat the spread of the virus. IESG provided two zoom licenses for the NIEC and one zoom license for the Parliamentary Ad Hoc Committee to enable timely consultations with all staff and stakeholders. Training has been organized through zoom for NIEC staff and IESG provided links to on-line electoral administration courses for the secretariat staff. A total of 80 NIEC staff member enrolled for nine courses in electoral operations and administration with 36 staff obtaining certification. Both IESG and NIEC staff are providing support to help NIEC colleagues who are striving to complete the courses.

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

The Electoral Law adopted on 20 Feb 2020 delegated the authority to Parliament to regulate fundamental aspects of the electoral process rather than give the authority to the NIEC. The law lacks clarity in many articles and as a result a parliamentary ad hoc committee had to be established to clarify four key issues in the electoral law without which it would not be possible to implement the law. The Amendments to the Political Parties Law is still under discussion in Parliament and the delay in adopting this law will impact the ability of political parties to register for the 2020/21 elections. The quality of the legal framework remains a challenge as it is contradictory and insufficient, clearly reflecting the lack of legal drafting knowledge. Lack of political will for universal suffrage elections could undermine the NIEC's decision-making and implementation capacity of its mandate and risks undermining the overall support to the process. If significant parts of the population cannot be registered or cannot vote due to security constraints, certain areas/groups may face exclusion in their representation.

For any election, the critical path for election planning is the timeline for the procurement of electoral goods and services including key items like voter registration kits, ballot papers, ballot boxes, polling kits and electoral ink. The ballot paper procurement process starts with the candidate registration process, for which both the Electoral Law and the Political Parties Law need to be finalized. As the government's financial situation is limited, donors have been approached to financially support the Elections. If budget and funding are agreed at a late stage, it could affect overall electoral timelines given operational requirements for procurement, shipping, packing and delivering of materials. Timely available of financial resources are vital to ensure delivery of goods and services to meet the electoral timelines. The FGS needs to establish a political agreement between all of the FMSs and other stakeholders on an agreed way forward on the electoral modality and implementation as soon as possible if electoral timelines are to be met within a reasonable time of the constitutional deadline.

The spread of COVID-19 in Somalia, and the planned measures to contain the virus have both constitutional and technical implications for the timing and administration of the elections in Somalia in an exceptionally complex environment (security threats, lack of political will, inadequate transport infrastructure, lack of experienced polling staff/electoral workers). COVID 19 at this stage of the electoral process has had some visible short-term effects on the planning phase of operations, mainly linked to the incomplete legal framework, upon which operations are dependent. Delays in the finalization of the legal framework will lead to delays in the finalization of planning. Considering the new hazards and risks posed by covid-19 pandemic, extra measures will be put in place during the electoral operations ensuring the safety and security of the people involved and participating in the electoral process including operations. For example, in order to avoid large gatherings, the planned outreach programmes, voter education and dialogues would be implemented through various forms of digital communication using IT as well as mainstream and alternative media outlets. This would ensure necessary outreach to political parties and other stakeholders engaging and mobilizing the general population and targeted audiences in the forthcoming electoral process.

Peacebuilding impact:

N/A



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Catalytic effects		
Following two projects are being supported/ funded through the UN Peace Building Fund:		
1. Support to Mechanisms to Prevent and Manage Conflict During Elections Project’ with funding/ budget of USD 2.5 M. Objective of the project is to put in place a conflict prevention mechanism by establishing a lean electoral dispute resolution mechanism understood by all, so that electoral complaints are not mishandled and lead to election-related violence.		
2. Support to NIEC Electoral Dispute Resolution Mechanisms with funding/ budget of USD 2.5’. Objective of the project is to prevent and manage conflict related to planned electoral activities (voter registration and elections) in 2020-21 and to prevent violence and to manage the response to violent incidents.		
Gender:		
The joint programme for electoral support works closely with the UNSOM Gender Unit, UNDP’s project on women’s participation in political processes and UN Women’s support programme, 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. The joint programme 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 ³	Total no. of Joint Programme Outputs	Total no. of gender specific Outputs
	5	<i>Several outputs include specific gender components</i>
Proportion of Joint Programme staff with responsibility for gender issues ⁴	Total no. of Staff	Total no. of staff with responsibility for gender issues
	20	2
Human Rights:		
Somalia is a signatory to different international and regional treaties and is obliged to follow key human rights standards, includes clauses as stipulated in Art 25 of the ICCPR 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 others, include enhancing the independence of the NIEC, promoting inclusiveness during the voter registration, and ensuring a level playing field for all stakeholders is included in the electoral legislation.		
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.)
		4
No. of Joint Programme outputs designed to build capacity of duty bearers to fulfil their human rights obligations towards rights holders.		Result (No.)
		1
Other		

³ Gender Specific Outputs are those that are specifically designed to directly and explicitly contribute to the promotion of Gender Equality and Women’s Empowerment.

⁴ Staff members are those contracted to undertaken work for the Joint Programme including full time staff, consultants, advisors, interns, etc. Staff members with responsibility for gender issues are those who have gender related activities included in their Terms of Reference.



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Does the Joint Programmes have a national cost-sharing component (i.e. funds and/or other resources provided by the FGS and/or FMS (including in-kind contributions)? (if 'Yes', describe below).	<table border="1"> <tr> <th data-bbox="1317 298 1536 331">Results (Yes/No)</th> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="1317 331 1536 394">NO</td> </tr> </table>	Results (Yes/No)	NO
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.	<table border="1"> <tr> <th data-bbox="1317 394 1536 428">Results (Yes/No)</th> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="1317 428 1536 478">NO</td> </tr> </table>	Results (Yes/No)	NO
Results (Yes/No)			
NO			
<p>Communications & Visibility</p> <p>The project disseminates bi-monthly newsletters and ensures visibility of donors. Project ensures updates on UNDP Somalia and HQ website including reference to donor support and funding. Project ensures public information material has appropriate donor logos represented, wherever possible. IESG has been advocating with NIEC to improve donor recognition in their press briefings, workshops, meetings and conferences and to reflect donor logos on all invitations, agendas, reports, banners and related materials when using donor funds to support such activities. Where appropriate, NIEC is requested to photograph events or actions supported by IESG and respective donors and share these with IESG with the necessary information on the event.</p> <p>Banners with donor logos: EU, Germany, Sweden, DFID, USAID, Norway and UNDP have been designed and used by the NIEC when organizing workshops and printing some literature.</p> <p>In addition, IESG organized additional coordination meetings with international electoral assistance providers to the NIEC, to share updates and strengthen coordination amongst international implementing partners. Together with the NIEC, IESG has established an information sharing meeting with international partners which meets regularly to provide updates and share information and areas of support.</p> <p>In accordance with the EU-UNDP joint Guidelines on Electoral Assistance, the Joint Programme provides monthly updates to UNDP's Global Project for Electoral Cycle Support (GPECS). These monthly global updates are shared with the EU as part of the EU-UNDP communications and visibility framework for electoral projects. 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/</p> <p>Electoral support project information including donor support is available at UNDP Somalia website at https://www.so.undp.org/content/somalia/en/home/projects/un-electoral-support-project.html</p>			
<p>Looking ahead</p> <p>IESG will continue to provide technical advice to the NIEC with regard to different options and scenarios that may be considered to hold the elections as close as possible to the constitutional timelines while mitigating the impact of COVID-19 on the electoral process. Progress on the electoral legislation, political agreement among the stakeholders and the NIEC's operational plan for elections will facilitate the upcoming discussions among international partners for resource mobilization to support the elections. In terms of programming, it is essential for international partners to ensure that the preparations for elections remain on track hand-in-hand with the NIEC strategic plan and decision-making.</p> <p>Key activities planned for next 6 months includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support to NIEC to finalize the voter registration and elections operational plan to implement the electoral law; • Support to NIEC to draft procedures and regulations for elections based on the electoral law; • Support to NIEC to establish the electoral dispute resolution mechanism based on the electoral law; • Support to the Political Parties Registrar Office to finalize plans for parties to submit their official applications for registration once the Amendments to the Political Parties Law is passed; • Support to NIEC to conduct public outreach activities through media including new media in its programming to support electoral process; • Resource mobilization to ensure funding availability to support the elections; • Support ongoing review and implementation of NIEC governance framework and related internal policies; • Procurement of electoral related goods and services to support the elections; • Procurement of equipment and Furniture for new NIEC compound and NESTF operations; 			



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- Support online personal and professional development for NIEC staff to strengthen the NIEC institutional capacity.



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ANNEX 1. RISK MANAGEMENT

Type of Risk ⁵	Description of Risk	Mitigating Measures
Political	There is a risk that the past ‘clan-based’ 2016 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.	January 2018: The Government issued 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 and MAF Oct 2019. The renewed mandate of UNSOM underscores the UN’s support to universal elections. Based on the recommendations of the NAM, the 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.	IESG assists the NIEC with its engagements with the FMS and the establishment of sub-national electoral offices. Use of UN good offices to advocate with those FMS who have 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. IESG supported NIEC advocacy to seek clarification from Parliament in the electoral law. UN good offices advocated with Speaker of House of the People to introduce the Amendments to the Political Parties Law, currently at second reading stage in Parliament.
Political/Strategic/ operational/security/ financial	Risk that sound planning for voter registration will be undermined due to an unfinalized electoral law, protracted political discussions on registration of voters, operational challenges, security concerns, and funding constraints	IESG has developed a phased approach, where scaling up for voter registration is dependent on achievement of essential milestones. Delays in this regard might affect the overall timeline for electoral operations by end 2020.
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 FMS and FGS to reach political consensus on electoral modality.

⁵ Environmental; Financial; Operational; Organizational; Political; Regulatory; Security; Strategic; Other.



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		<p>Close coordination with security sector, including deployment of international security advisor in IESG to provide de-politized polling centre threat assessments.</p> <p>NESTF established Sept 2019. UN good offices used to advocate with Police Commissioner to fully operationalize NESTF and prepare electoral security plan as soon as possible.</p>
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.
Political	Risk that the electoral regulatory framework would not be developed in time affecting progress towards universal elections.	<p>The JP is designed to provide tailored international advisers on electoral systems, guiding the counterparts throughout the drafting of electoral legislation.</p> <p>UN good offices used to advocate for timely completion of electoral legislation.</p>
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 other stakeholders. Budget provision will be made for procurement of personal protection equipment (PPE) to mitigate the effects of COVID-19 during the implementation of electoral operations.
Security	Security conditions adversely impact the frequency with which UN advisers can work closely with government partners and other stakeholders.	<p>UN to use alternative means such as virtual media tools including videoconferencing. The Joint Programme is working with other actors, including agencies, programmes and the Mission/DSS to find the best way for UN electoral advisors to work together with government partners.</p> <p>NIEC staff become more familiar with use of electronic tools to regularly consult with IESG advisors.</p>
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.	<p>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. The Joint Programme is extended until 31 December 2020 to support NIEC's current priorities.</p> <p>An electoral Needs Assessment Mission (NAM) was conducted in 2018 that discussed with national and international partners requirements to define the</p>



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		<p>needs for an electoral capacity development framework towards universal elections by 2020.</p> <p>The FGS provided a budget for the NIEC’s staffing costs and some regular operational expenses in 2020.</p>
Financial	Lack of funding from the donors may cause substantial risk of not achieving the objectives of full joint Programme.	<p>Senior leadership of UN and NIEC were involved in discussions with donors regarding the funding required for conduct of elections. NIEC presented two options to the Parliament:</p> <p>Option 1: Election with Standard Biometric VR and Polling with budget of USD 70 M. Government anticipated contribution is USD 7 M which is included in the supplementary budget discussion in parliament. Donors required contribution is USD 63 M.</p> <p>Option 2: Elections with same day paper-based VR and Polling with budget of USD 46 M. Government anticipated contribution is USD 7 M and donors required contribution is USD 39 M.</p> <p>Currently, donors have committed USD 10 M and donors soft commitments are for USD 15 M.</p>
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.	<p>The NAM has underlined inclusivity as a key element for the UN in the preparations for universal elections.</p> <p>Within the guidance of the Government and federal institutions, the project supports NIEC to conduct consultative forums with the public and works with media to ensure adequate information sharing and transparency on the process to all sections of society.</p>
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.	<p>The NAM has underlined inclusivity as a key element for the UN in the preparations for future universal elections.</p> <p>Within the guidance of the Government and federal institutions, the project supports NIEC to conduct consultative forums with the public and works with media to ensure adequate information sharing and transparency on the process with all sections of society. IESG works with other sections of the UN to enhance the capacity of any potentially affected stakeholders, in particular</p>



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		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/MoIFAR) 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.
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 proposed Project would have adverse impacts on gender equality and/or the situation of women and girls.	Project activities have gender components and gender plans and these are considered through all project activities e.g. trainings on “Gender Responsive Elections”. 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 (UNWomen, UNDP and UNSOM), the the UN Resident Coordination Office (RCO) and UNDP CO on gender concerns.



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ANNEX 2. MONITORING AND OVERSIGHT ACTIVITIES

Monitoring Activity	Date	Description & Comments	Key Findings / Recommendations
Four Electoral information sharing meetings	15 Jan, 24 Feb, 7 Apr, 19 May 2020	Electoral updates to international partners	Presentations and Meeting minutes
IESG, PAMG and Donor Group Meeting	Fortnightly	Electoral and political updates to international partners	Presentations
Assistance Partners Meeting	Monthly	Discuss progress on implementation of assistance to NIEC	5 sub-working groups established and co-chaired by NIEC and Assistance Partner Focal Point.
IESG Field Missions	Jan and Feb 2020	Various – meetings in the FMS. Meetings with Donors in Nairobi.	Back to office reports
UNDP Somalia country office audit including Elections Project	Feb 2020	No audit findings related to Elections Project	No findings
Harmonized Approach for Cash Transfer (HACT) Audit	Mar/ Apr 2020	HACT audit of project activities under LoA b/w UNDP and NIEC conducted by third party ‘Deloitte’	Unqualified findings with following two recommendations: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1. NIEC should procure an automated accounting software and train the finance team in the usage of such a software. 2. NIEC should update its fixed asset register and ensure that the register contains the asset purchase date, asset tag number and the asset condition.
Financial Spot Check of NIEC	Jan 2020	Financial spot check of project activities under LoA b/w UNDP and NIEC conducted by third party ‘Deloitte’	Satisfactory spot check exercise with following two recommendations: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Management should endeavor to implement recommendations from third party assurance activities. 2. The Commission should acquire an accounting system to record and store financial transactions to prevent errors arising from manual accounting processes.
Verification of conduct of activities	Jan- Jun 2020	On-going verification of project activities by DFID contracted third party ‘LAMPS’	No findings
Engineering site visits	Jan- Jun 2020	Regular site visits of UNDP Engineering team to NIEC data center Regular site visits by IESG staff to review construction progress at NIEC compound (Jan-March 2020).	NIEC Data Center project completion report and regular reports during the construction period.



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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			
1.	NIEC Staff (Training Unit)		22 Jan 2020	6	6	12	Vote counting simulation exercise for the House of the People and Upper House elections for NIEC Training Unit & IESG	Mogadishu,	IESG
2.	NIEC Board of Commissioners and Staff		29 Jan 2020	20	6	26	Vote counting simulation exercise for the House of the People for Board of Commissioners & Sec staff	Mogadishu	IESG
3.	NIEC Staff (Training Unit)		2 Feb 2020	2	0	2	Orientation training for two newly recruited staff in NIEC Training Unit	Mogadishu	IESG
4.	NIEC Staff (Public outreach team)		3 Feb 2020	6	2	8	Voter Education campaign preparation for Voter Registration Process for Public Outreach team	Mogadishu	IESG
5.	NIEC Staff (IT team)		5 Feb 2020	8	0	8	Training on defining constituencies for HoP and implementation model for IT teams	Mogadishu	IESG
6.	NIEC Staff (Training Unit and HR Director)		9 Feb 2020	4	1	5	Capacity development for training team on VR recruitment and TORs for NIEC Training Unit and HR Director	Mogadishu	IESG
7.	NIEC Staff (logistic team)		11 Feb-2020	2	0	2	Capacity building in development on SOP vehicle management for NIEC Ops staff	Mogadishu	IESG
8.	NIEC Staff (Public Outreach team)		18 Feb 2020	6	3	9	Public Outreach activities meeting for Public Outreach team	Mogadishu	IESG
9.	NIEC Monitoring Staff		Jan and Feb 2020	3	1	4	Monitoring and Evaluation	NIEC HQ	NIEC Advisor
10.	NIEC Field Office Staff		Feb 2020	4	1	5	By-election training for NIEC field office	Kismayo – Jubaland	NIEC-Operation Department
11.	NIEC Board of Commissioners and Senior Sec staff.		29 Feb - 05 March 2020	10	7	17	Advisory Panel on Elections workshop	Mogadishu	IESG
12.	NIEC Board of Commissioners and Advisors		10 Mar 2020	9	3	12	Simulation of polling and vote counting, tallying for Upper House and concepts/definitions on spoiled/invalid/valid ballot papers -	Mogadishu	IESG



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#	Target Group		Dates	# of participants			Title of the training	Location of training	Training provider
	Ministry. District or UN staff	Others		M	F	Total			
13.	Board of Commissioners and Sec staff		17 Mar 2020	25	5	30	Presentation on result forms retrieval steps and confidence measures	Mogadishu	IESG
14.	NIEC Advisors		22 Mar2020	2	0	2	Elections workshop on UH options	Mogadishu	IESG
15.	NIEC Staff (Public Outreach team)		02-14 May 2020	4	0	4	Graphic Design training session	Virtual	IESG
16.	NIEC Staff (Training Unit)		2 Jun 2020	3	2	5	Induction Training for newly recruited Training Officers	Virtual	IESG
Total				114	37	151			



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Pictures – IESG electoral assistance to NIEC (Jan-Jun 2020)



Chairperson NIEC presenting progress and challenges on preparations for the 2020 election during the Electoral Information Sharing meeting. Mogadishu, 15 January 2020



NIEC and IESG meeting with Upper House Ad Hoc committee to discuss concerns related to the draft electoral bill. Mogadishu, 23 January 2020



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President Farmaajo and speakers of both Houses of Parliament hold up the electoral Law which the President signed at the closing of Parliament's 6th session. Mogadishu, 20 February 2020.



NIEC hosted a media briefing for journalists on the electoral process and updates on NIEC's preparations for the one-person-one-vote elections in 2020. Mogadishu, 2 February 2020.



27 June 2020, Mogadishu: NIEC Board of Commissioners meet before the NIEC's historic presentation on preparations for federal elections to the House of the People.



UNDP hands over keys of new NIEC Data Center Building to NIEC, Mogadishu, 28 May 2020



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IESG and NIEC conduct simulation of options for tabulation of votes for NIEC Staff. Mogadishu, 29 Jan 2020



A joint field mission by IESG, NIEC and UNSOS to meet with UNMAS and UNSOS staff and review storage facilities for electoral materials. Dhobley, Jubaland, 17 Feb 2020



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IESG conducted a series of simulation exercises for the NIEC Board of Commissioners and Secretariat Staff. Mogadishu, 10 Mar 2020



SRS James Swan with Chairman of the Joint Parliamentary Ad Hoc Committee on Elections, Hon. Ibrahim Yarow and Committee member Senator Mahdi, Mogadishu, 29 Mar 2020



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NIEC Data Center Building, NIEC compound, Mogadishu, May 2020



NIEC-IESG monthly electoral information sharing meeting. Mogadishu, 19 May 2020