

UNDP - Nauru
Accountable and Inclusive
Governance (NAIG) Project

Annual Report

2021

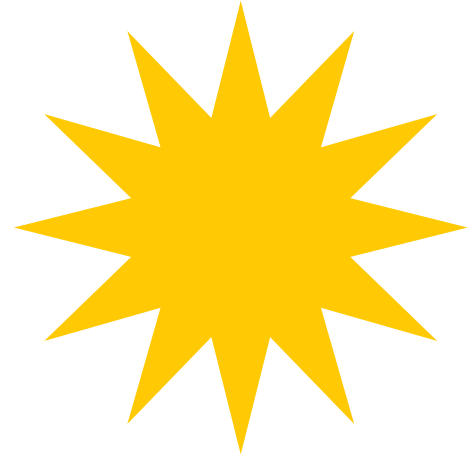


**Australian
Aid**



**NEW ZEALAND
FOREIGN AFFAIRS & TRADE
Manatū Aorere**





Annual Report 2021

PROJECT TITLE:

Nauru Accountable and Inclusive Governance (NAIG) Project

Start Date: 5 May 20201 End Date: 31 December 2024

PROJECT NUMBER:

00121714

Applicable Output(s) from the SRPD (2018-2022)

United Nations Pacific Strategy Outcome 5:

By 2022, people and communities in the Pacific will contribute to and benefit from inclusive, informed, and transparent decision-making processes, accountable and responsive institutions, and improved access to justice

Strategic plan outcome 2:

Citizen expectations for voice, development, the rule of law and accountability are met by stronger systems of democracy and governance.

Implementing Partners:

The Parliament of Nauru Nauru Electoral Commission



CONTENTS

Summary	5
Part 1: Developments & Activities During the Reporting Period.....	5
Output 1: National Electoral Commission Processes and Capacities Strengthened.....	8
Output 2: National Parliament Capacities to Ensure Inclusive, Accountable Governance Strengthened.....	12
Output 3: The Engagement of Women and Girls in Politics & Public Life Strengthened.....	15
Output 4: National Civic Education Initiatives Piloted and Rolled Out.....	17
Part 2: Planned Activities for Next Quarter	23
Part 3: Partnerships.....	24
Part 4: Risk and Assumptions.....	25
Part 5: Knowledge Management and Communication.....	27
Part 6: Key Lessons Learnt and Challenges.....	27
Part 7: Sustainability and Scaling Up.....	27
Part 8: Quarter 3/4 2021 Financial Report.....	29
Part 9: List of Evidence Provided as Annex	30



Summary

The Nauru Accountable and Inclusive Governance (NAIG) Project was formally launched in July 2021.

The Parliamentary side of the project was able to quickly leverage the goodwill and trust generated through the ongoing UNDP regional parliamentary development projects - Pacific Parliamentary Effectiveness Initiative (PPEI) funded by the New Zealand Government, the Strengthening Legislatures in the Pacific (SLIP) Project funded by the Government of Japan and the Fiji Parliament Support Project (II) which was jointly funded by New Zealand, Australia, and Japan.

NAIG was able to provide essential support to the Parliament as it began to implement the Parliamentary Service Act 2020. This support allowed the Parliament to proceed in implementation with confidence and make foundational decisions that will positively affect Parliamentary independence and operations into the long term.

Electoral assistance activities of the project continue from the Nauru Electoral Support Project (NESP) launched with the support of New Zealand MFAT and Australian DFAT. The Project has similarly been able to leverage the goodwill and trust generated through that project to quickly launch a support program for the Nauru Electoral Commission (NEC).

The NEC faced several unanticipated large scale operational events during the reporting period which benefited from the support the project was able to provide.

Part 1: Developments & Activities During the Reporting Period

Covid Impact

Nauru has remained Covid Free during the reporting period. This has allowed the Nation to continue much of its work as it is not dependent on tourism and transnational interactions.

During the reporting period, it proved difficult to get to the country as a two-week stay in Australia before a further week in quarantine was required. Getting permission to enter Australia also proved challenging. This led to the project staff relying on frequent online meetings. While not ideal, it did permit progress to continue.

A significant amount of assistance is required to prepare the NEC for an election with contingency plans that cover a Covid outbreak.

Election Act 2016 Amendment

On 21 September 2021 Parliament passed an amendment to the electoral act. The provisions of the amendment did not incorporate input from the NEC. The act contained three primary elements:

1. Revised the NEC structure to make 3 commissioners with equal duties and added in an (international) registrar to support.
2. Added in a provision for a non-binding referendum (survey/poll)
3. Added in a need for potential candidates to declare their intention to run 270 days before the end of the parliament

These three provisions have important implications for Nauruan democracy.

Election Commission Structure

The new structure seeks to ensure a consensus making approach to commission decisions. The addition of a registrar seems to be to ensure a strong politically neutral element in the commission and seems to be intended for an international to take up the post. This seems to support the belief that political neutrality among staff in Nauru is difficult given the close association of the community in Nauru. While this may help to ensure neutrality, it does potentially erode sovereign control over their democratic process.

With the amendment two of three commissioners are needed to make decisions and sign off on results etc. This will provide a degree of mitigation to any malfeasance.

National Survey/ Poll on Requirements for Candidates

Shortly after this amendment, the government required the NEC to conduct a survey on 13 November 2021 with 3 weeks' notice on the following question:

Should the membership of Parliament, including the Office of the President and Ministers, be reserved for Nauruans and their descendants who became Nauruan citizens in 1968 when the Constitution came into force?

This was the first event conducted by the NEC without advisors on the island and since the passing of the previous electoral commissioner.


The short notice for this survey also put the NEC in the position of having to go from zero to running a full-scale election process in 30 days. Operationally it provided an excellent test run of electoral processes ahead of the 2022 Parliament elections.

The project assisted with operational planning, regulation development, outreach planning and implementation, results management, and procedures development.

The results were 71.2% to 28.5%

While there are sections of the constitution that cannot be changed without a referendum, the section relating to candidature can be changed with a cabinet process including a constitutional committee meeting twice over two months. The section of the constitution that the poll refers to can be amended based on this parliamentary process.

The official results were as follows:



REPUBLIC OF NAURU
Electoral Act 2016
[Regulation 9]

CERTIFICATE OF RESULT OF POLL


To the Honourable Chairman of the Cabinet:


We hereby certify that the results of the poll held on 13th November 2021 in respect of the question *“Should the membership of Parliament, including the Office of the President and Ministers, be reserved for Nauruans and their descendants who became Nauruan citizens in 1968 when the Constitution came into force?”*, are as follows:


1. Registered voters:	7,903
2. Number of votes cast:	6,490
3. Number of votes not cast:	1,413
4. Number of “Yes” votes counted:	4,572
5. Number of “No” votes counted:	1,850
6. Number of invalid votes counted:	68
7. Total percentage of votes cast:	99.0%
8. Total percentage of invalid votes cast:	1.0%
9. Total percentage of ‘Yes’ votes:	70.4%
10. Total percentage of ‘No’ votes:	28.5%

11. The following proportion of votes cast answered the question “Yes”: 71.2%. The following proportion of votes cast answered the question “No”: 28.8%.

DATED this 14th day of November, 2021.


[Electoral Commissioner]


[Electoral Commissioner]


[Electoral Commissioner]

Candidate Declaration of Intention

This is an entirely new provision that the Project has not seen before and seems to be unique to Nauru. It is not a nomination process – just a mandatory signal that someone is thinking about being nominated for candidacy.

It requires potential candidates to indicate their interest in running 270 days before the election, or else face significant fines/imprisonment if nominated for candidature during the legal period for candidate nomination immediately before the election without registering interest in this declaration period.

The full list of declarations is available here: <https://election.com.nr/gazette-203-21-declared-intentions/>

Output 1: National Electoral Commission Processes and Capacities Strengthened

The following are key areas of support that were provided to the NEC during the reporting period:

National Poll Support

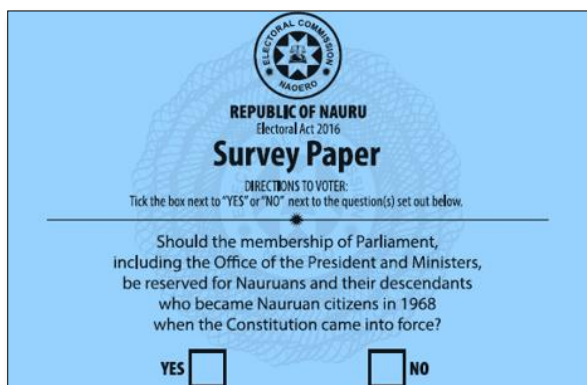
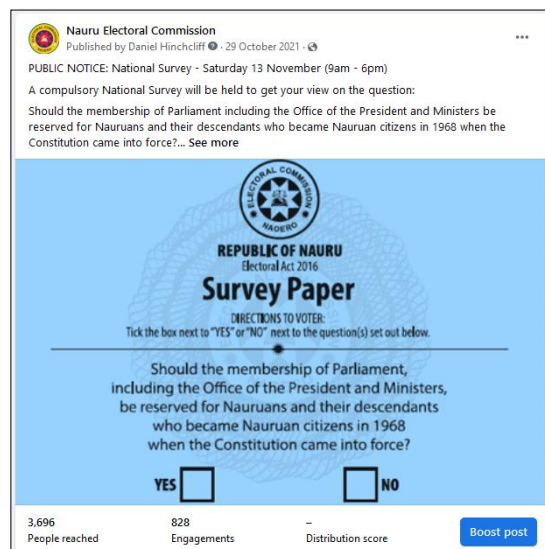
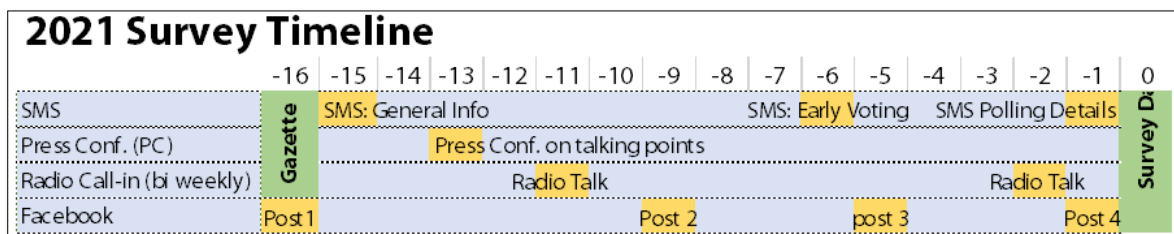
The National Poll provided an excellent opportunity to test systems for the 2022 election. The poll gave only limited notice to the NEC – demonstrating that the NEC is ready to hold large processes at a high level of quality.

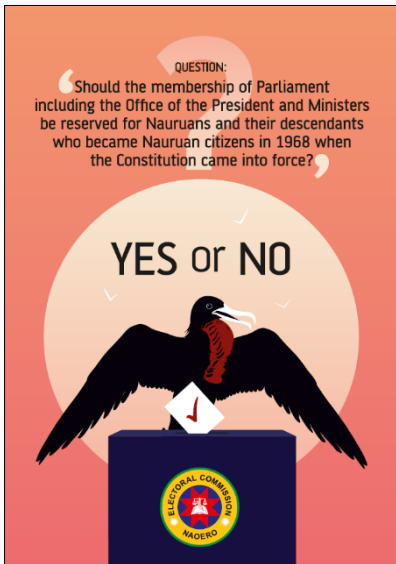
The Project contracted a consultant to support voter registration, processing of section votes, mobile polling, roll production, and non-voter notices.

The Project also supported the NEC to develop the following products:

- Outreach plan and materials
- Results management
- Ballot design
- Polling manuals and forms
- Early voting Manuals and forms
- Proxy voting information kits

Below are some elements that were supported by the NAIG Project:





Survey Instructions

- The Survey is open from 9am to 6pm in your district
- You must take it in your registered district
- Bring your photo ID with you
- The process is the same as normal voting

What if you need a little extra help to take the survey?

Early Polling:

- Vote early at: NEC AWC Civic Center if you cannot come on Saturday
- Opens 9am to 5pm from Monday 8th, to Friday 22nd November if you:
- Work on Saturday (bring work note)
- Have religious reasons (get Pastor to supply list)
- Will be out of Nauru on Saturday (bring ticket)
- Will be in hospital (bring doctors note)

Proxy Polling:

- You can take the survey for up to 4 Nauruan voters outside of Nauru
- Out of Nauru voters can use the remote witness system to complete their application if they need to.

Mobile Polling:

- We can come to your house if you can not reach a polling center
- Fill out an application as normal for mobile polling
- We will do mobile polling the day before (Friday) and on Survey Day.

Get Ready!

Here is a sample of the survey.

Visit the NEC website and follow our facebook page to get all the latest information.
www.election.com.na
 Phone Number: +6745773803
 email: info@electoralcommission.org.na
 Get Center used 600000
 Look out for voter information, SMS, and radio/TV information coverage.

	Total Votes	Invalid Votes	Valid Votes	Yes	No	Audit Check 1	Audit Check 2
Aiwo	0					ok	ok
Anabar	0					ok	ok
Anetan	0					ok	ok
Boe	0					ok	ok
Buada	0					ok	ok
Meneng	0					ok	ok
Ubenide	0					ok	ok
Yaren	0					ok	ok
Total	0	0	0	0	0	ok	ok

Poll operations Planning:

One key area of support was to work with the NEC to develop a timeline for the process. This is the key planning document for any electoral process and allows budgeting, logistics, staff management and training as well and to be completed.

2021 Survey Timeline			Sat	13/11/2021	: Survey Date				
Operation	Event	Day	From	Days	Day	To	Days Before Electic	Schedule	
Polling	Mobile	Mobile Polling (Houses)	Mon	*****	5	Fri	12 November 2021	1	late
Polling	Police	Meeting/training with Police for briefing of duties & ops plan	Sat	23 October 2021	1			21	late
Polling	Polling Centers	Polling centers location, permission, PoCs, and access confir	Sat	23 October 2021	1			21	late
Procurement	Polling materials	Voting Screens, Tents, tables chair, seals, ballot boxes check	Thur	14 October 2021	1			30	Complete
Procurement	Polling materials	Polling material ordered (pens etc. If needed)	Thur	14 October 2021	1			30	late
Procurement	Polling materials	Polling material specified	Fri	15 October 2021	1			29	late
Polling	Polling materials	Sorting and packing of Polling Center materials	Fri	5 November 2021	1			8	late
Polling	Polling materials	Polling material final checked packed/stored ready	Thur	11 November 2021	1			2	late
Polling	Polling materials	Finalise polling materials kits/prepare for distribution	Thur	11 November 2021	1			2	late
Polling	Proxy	Last proxy voting application date (24hrs before 09:00am E-D)	Fri	12 November 2021	1			1	late
Polling	Staff	Polling staff from 2019 contacted	Sat	16 October 2021	8	Sat	23 October 2021	21	late
Polling	Staff	Polling staff identified and hired	Sun	24 October 2021	1			20	late
Training	staff	Finalise polling and counting training plans/program	Tues	26 October 2021	1			18	late
Training	staff	Early Voting Staff Training - refresher	Sat	30 October 2021	1			14	late
Training	Staff	Polling/counting staff - contracts issued - payment procedure	Fri	5 November 2021	1			8	late
Training	Staff	Polling Staff Training - Group 1	Sat	6 November 2021	1			7	late
Training	Staff	Polling Staff Training - Group 2	Sat	6 November 2021	1			7	late
Training	Staff	Polling Staff Training - Mobile voting	Sat	6 November 2021	1			7	late
Training	staff	Count Staff Training - 4pm Survey Day	Sat	13 November 2021	1			0	late
Polling	Staff	Polling staff evaluations completed and compiled	Fri	19 November 2021	1			-6	late
Polling	Survey	Polling (09:00am to 18:00pm)	Sat	*****	1			0	late
Operations		Operational plan finalised	Thur	14 October 2021	1			30	Complete
Outreach		Finalise public outreach strategy & messages	Sat	16 October 2021	1			28	late
Outreach		Finalise public information/voter education plans and calenda	Sat	16 October 2021	1			28	late
Outreach		Press Conference - What/Where/How	Mon	18 October 2021	1			26	late
Outreach		Launch of voter education and public information campaigns	Mon	18 October 2021	1			26	late
Outreach		Finalise outreach materials	Mon	18 October 2021	1			26	late
Budget		Supplementary budget submitted	Tues	19 October 2021	1			25	late
Legal		Publish Notice in Gazette (including polling station list)	Sat	23 October 2021	1			21	late
Counting		Confirm location for count and access (PoCs)	Sat	30 October 2021	1			14	late
Counting		Count center location confirmed & layout plan finalised	Mon	1 November 2021	1			12	late
Counting		Results sheet templates finalised	Sat	6 November 2021	1			7	late
Voter Roll		Voter Roll Finalised (not closed) (7 days before election)	Sat	6 November 2021	1			7	late
Outreach		Press Conference - Final Information	Sat	6 November 2021	1			7	late
Counting		Establish count center networking and IT setup (prepare items)	Tues	9 November 2021	1			4	late
Outreach		Radio Call in show	Tues	9 November 2021	1			4	late
Voter Roll		Update voter roll to list mobile voters	Thur	11 November 2021	1			2	late
Voter Roll		Update voter roll to list Early voters	Fri	12 November 2021	1			1	late
Voter Roll		Finalise voter roll to list proxy voters	Fri	12 November 2021	1			1	late
Voter Roll		Print voter roll - district & country roll (14 each)	Fri	12 November 2021	1			1	late
Counting		Finalise preparations of count center facility	Sat	13 November 2021	1			0	late
Counting		Counting complete Results declared (as soon as possible)	Sun	14 November 2021	1			-1	late
Legal		Records destroyed (kept for 1 year)	Sun	13 November 2022	1			-365	ok

Some of the lessons learned from the process include:

1. The NEC team succeeded in producing the electoral roll.
2. Staff roles and allocations could be strengthened.
3. The NEC staff would benefit from some video training modules before the 2022 general elections. The event that was much simpler than a general election and ongoing support in the delivery of this next event will be needed.

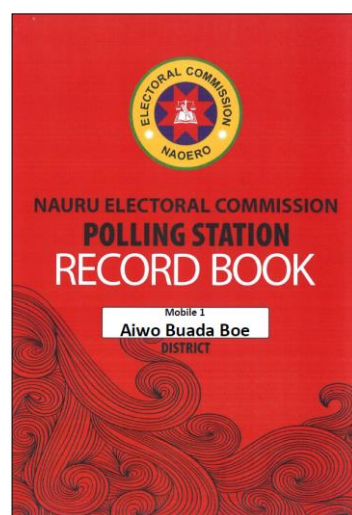
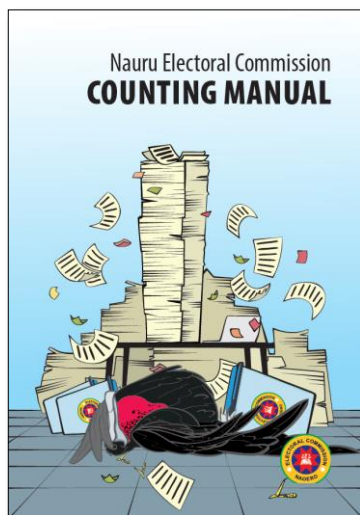
2022 Election Planning

As part of the ongoing sustainability planning for the NEC, documents are being revised and completed to become part of the “final series” of processes for the NEC. While these will need revision as the legal framework changes – they become the core part of electoral processes and provide institutional knowledge as well as an easy reference for staff.

In the reporting period the following “Final” documents were produced:

- Counting Manual
- Record Book
- Forms
- Ballot Templates allow high-quality production without external graphic design support
- PNG library with all illustrations/images created to date for use in presentations and outreach by the NEC as needed

Work in 2022 will include a focus on election preparations. As a part of that work, the following will be revised and prepared as part of the sustainability program:



The polling manual will also be revised and will include a COVID-19 section (TBD).

An election report template will also be produced to enable the NEC to capture all data from an electoral process to ensure that stakeholders have a complete picture of the process and of the areas that can be improved

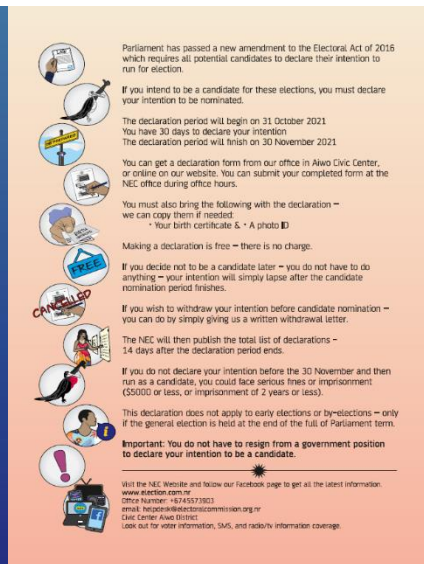
Declaration of Intent Process

As described on page 7, the Declaration of intent to become a candidate is a new process that needed to be actioned with little time to prepare or develop systems for.

The Project was able to help the NEC to design a full outreach program (including SMS program, handouts, door knock program, factsheets, Facebook/website posting program and press releases including talking points and FAQ development). The project also assisted with form design (below).



Outreach Poster



Fact Sheet

Declaration Form

Legal reform support

The NAIG Project worked closely with the NEC to prepare the legal reform package for the cabinet submission. It went through several reviews and the Ministry of Justice has been briefed. The legal advisor also worked with the Ministry of Justice on a draft text for the Electoral Act of 2016 to incorporate the new structure of the NEC into the Act in a comprehensive manner

The advisor also prepared a concept on how the MoU with the Police could be strengthened to ensure that the NEC can ask the police and Courts for assistance with any cases of malfeasance that is outside of their ability to investigate.

The cabinet submission was not advanced to Cabinet before the year-end and submission in Q1 is expected. Due to covid-19 access issues, these conversations were held remotely, which was not ideal and led to delays



Legal framework review session with NEC

Output 2: National Parliament Capacities to Ensure Inclusive, Accountable Governance Strengthened

The Nauru Accountable and Inclusive Governance Project provided technical support to the Nauru Parliament in the third and fourth quarters of 2021 as part of the implementation of the Parliamentary Service Act 2020¹.

Utilizing the experiences and networks of the UNDP Pacific Office regional parliament project, including “*South-South learning*”, NAIG formed a *Transition Team*, comprising of staff from Pacific parliaments and the Australia State Parliaments to supplement the capacities of the Office of Parliamentary Services of the Nauru Parliament. The initiative enabled cooperation between parliaments of the region, planning and implementation of activities aligned to the Parliamentary Service Act 2020.

The *Transition Team* was instrumental in drafting and finalizing the following regulations to support the parliament transition to Autonomy:

- i. Parliamentary Services (Employment and Procedures) Regulation 2021, Published in the Gazette (G.N. No. 445/2021)
- ii. Parliamentary Services (Procurement) Finance Rules 2021, Published in the Gazette (G.N. No. 451/2021)
- iii. Parliamentary Services (Financial Instructions) Finance Rules 2021, Published in the Gazette (G.N. No. 450/2021)
- iv. Parliament Service (Vehicle) Regulation 2021 - Published in the Gazette (GN 99 of 2021)
- v. Parliamentary Services (Remuneration) Regulation 2021, Published in the Gazette (G.N. No. 445/2021)
- vi. Parliamentary Services (Sale of Assets) Finance Rules 2021. This has been endorsed by the Cabinet, however, has not been gazetted. Parliament is following up on the status with MOJ.

NAIG also provided technical support to the Ministry of Justice to undertake a legal review of, and provide amendments to, the following regulations related to the parliament autonomy:

- vii. Parliamentary Services (Disciplinary) Regulation 2021, Published in the Gazette (G.N. No. 448/202)
- viii. Parliamentary Services (Appeals) Regulation 2021, Published in the Gazette (G.N. No. 449/2021)

The project supported the development of policies, manuals, registers, instructions, workflow processes necessary to operationalise the eight (8) regulations that were gazetted (and mentioned above). Upon request from Parliament, international experts in specialized areas like legal drafting were engaged to complement the capacity of the Transition Team.

¹ http://ronlaw.gov.nr/nauru_lpms/index.php/act/view/1523

Briefing sessions for Parliament staff

As a contribution to staff professional development, the project convened virtual briefing sessions with Nauru Parliament staff to enhance their understanding, interpretation and application of the various instruments that had been developed.

Two such trainings were the Nauru Parliamentary Services Act and Subordinate Legislation Training held on 27 and 28 July and the Nauru Delegations Training on 06 October. The Parliamentary Services Act and Subordinate Legislation Training was attended by the Clerk and 21 staff members. Topics covered included: Parliamentary Autonomy Project, Parliamentary Services Act, Regulations and Rules made under the Act, and Guide to making Subsidiary Legislation. The training provided a comprehensive overview of the Parliamentary Services Act and highlighted the importance of the human resource and financial subsidiary instruments required for implementation of the new autonomous legislative framework for the Parliament.

The length of the training and the topics covered were appropriate, and it was most useful to examine both the Act and the Regulations and the Finance Instruments in the same training program. The inclusion of practical exercises would have allowed the participants the opportunity to discuss and explore issues in more detail with their colleagues and with the presenters.

The Nauru Delegations Training was provided to assist with the implementation of the instruments of delegation that had been drafted. It helped enhance participants understanding on the different delegations but specifically focused on human resource and financial delegations. The training was undertaken soon after the subordinate instruments came into force on 1 July, and this meant that issues they would have been briefed about during prior were still fresh for participants.

The project will continue the briefings sessions in the first quarter of 2022, the first is tentatively scheduled for early April (dates TBC).

Parliamentary Services Act 2020	
TABLE OF PROVISIONS	
Section	Title
PART 1 — PRELIMINARY	
1	Short title
2	Commencement
3	Objectives
4	Interpretation
PART 2 — OFFICE OF PARLIAMENTARY SERVICES	
5	Establishment of the Office of Parliamentary Services
6	Functions of the Office
7	Separation of employees of the Office from the public service
PART 3 — SPEAKER	
8	Administrative functions of the Speaker
PART 4 — CLERK OF PARLIAMENT	
9	Clerk of Parliament
10	Functions of the Clerk
11	Remuneration and conditions of employment
12	Appointment of acting Clerk
13	Vacation of office
14	Suspension of the Clerk
15	Removal of the Clerk
16	Disclosure of interests by the Clerk
17	Prohibition on holding other office
PART 5 — PARLIAMENTARY LEGAL COUNSEL	
18	Parliamentary Legal Counsel
19	Legal advice from Department of Justice
PART 6 — EMPLOYEES OF THE OFFICE	
20	Employees of the Office
21	Outside employment
22	Recognition of continuity of service
23	Transfer of employee not to affect his or her rights
24	Secondment of employees in the Office and public service
25	No employee to be dismissed except under this Act
26	Right of appeal

Enacted by the Parliament of Nauru as follows:

PART 1 — PRELIMINARY

- 1 Short title**
This Act may be cited as the *Parliamentary Services Act 2020*.
- 2 Commencement**
This Act commences with effect from 1 July 2021.
- 3 Objectives**
The objectives of this Act are to:
(a) facilitate the separation of powers of the Legislature and the constitutional autonomy of the Parliament as a branch of the Government;
(b) provide administrative and functional efficiency of the services provided for the operations of the Parliament;
(c) provide a framework for the employment, leadership and management of employees of the Office and for the good governance of the administration of the Parliament; and
(d) provide for the financial and budgetary mechanisms for Parliamentary purposes.
- 4 Interpretation**
In this Act:
'Clerk' means the person appointed as the Clerk of Parliament pursuant to Article 33 of the *Constitution*;
'Committee' or *'Committees'* unless specifically referred to by its name, refers to one or more of the Committees established under the *Standing Orders of the Parliament of Nauru* or any other written law;
'employee' means any staff or officer of the Office;
'Office' means the Office of Parliamentary Services established by Section 5;
'Parliament' refers to the Parliament of Nauru established as the Legislature under Article 26 of the *Constitution* and the Office established under this Act to provide services to the Parliament;
'precinct' has the same meaning it has in the *Parliamentary Powers, Privileges and Immunities Act 1976*;
'responsible Minister' has the same meaning it has in Section 2 of the *Public Finance (Control and Management) Act 1997*;
'Speaker' means the Speaker of Parliament referred to in Article 34 of the *Constitution*; and

PART 5 — PARLIAMENTARY LEGAL COUNSEL

- 18 Parliamentary Legal Counsel**
(1) There shall be a Parliamentary Legal Counsel appointed under this Act as an employee of the Office.
(2) The Speaker may in consultation with the Clerk:
(a) appoint a Parliamentary Legal Counsel who shall provide legal advice or representation including in litigation for the Office, Speaker, Members of Parliament and Committees;
(b) provide for the remuneration and other terms and conditions of employment of the Parliamentary Legal Counsel; and
(c) assign such other duties and responsibilities as he or she deems appropriate.
(3) The Parliamentary Legal Counsel is an employee of the Office and shall report to the Clerk.
- 19 Legal advice from Department of Justice**
(1) In the absence of a Parliamentary Legal Counsel, the Office may seek legal:
(a) assistance from the Department of Justice limited to matters which are or not likely to conflict with the Executive Branch of the Government; or
(b) advice or assistance from a legal practitioner in private practice within or outside the Republic.
(2) The Office may seek legal advice on matters for which the Department of Justice is solely responsible for providing legal advice.
(3) For the purposes of subsection (1)(a), the Secretary for Justice may decide whether the nature of advice or assistance sought constitutes conflict of interest and shall accordingly inform the Clerk in writing.

Parliamentary Services Act 2020 Preliminary and Legal Counsel Sections

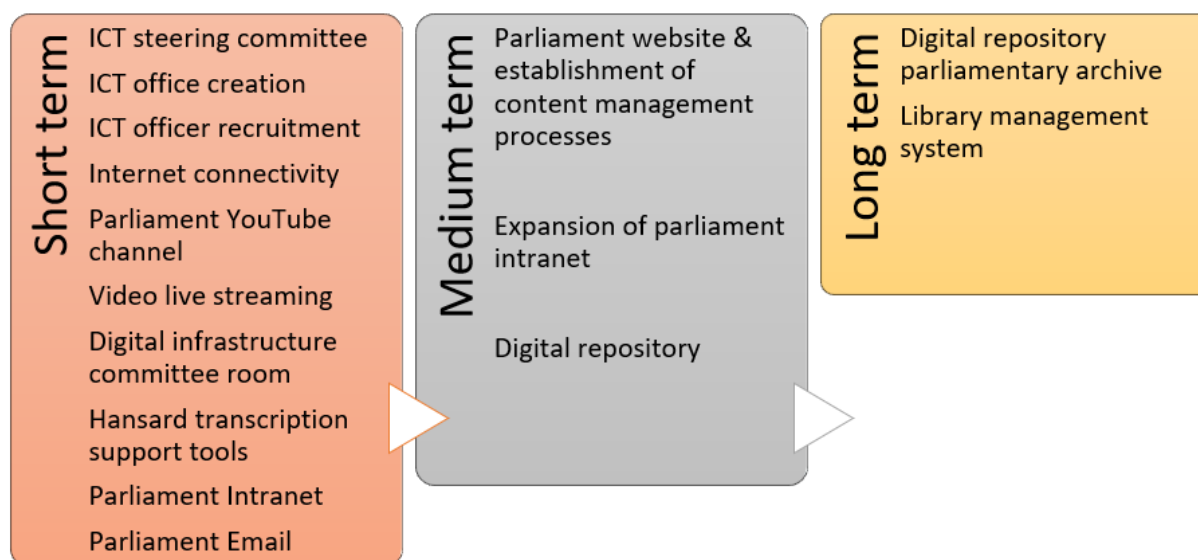
Completion of the Nauru Parliament ICT Assessment

The Project supported an ICT assessment to identify the needs of Parliament in 2021. The exercise was undertaken by a Parliamentary Innovations Advisor and the outcome formed the basis for the ICT infrastructure upgrade which started in December 2021 and is envisaged to be completed by June 2022.

The upgrade will boost parliament's digital public outreach capacity and is an essential contribution for legislative process transparency and for the parliament to become a much more open institution.

PLANNING

In terms of planning the following division over the short, medium and the long term is proposed.



Output 3: The Engagement of Women and Girls in Politics & Public Life Strengthened

The Project had planned to run workshops on candidature for women who aspire to be nominated to run as a candidate for election in 2022. These were successful in 2019 and were a key factor in the decision of some female candidates to formally be nominated to run – including one who was subsequently elected.

With the sudden development of the candidate nomination declaration process, however, the ability of UNDP to support this planned engagement was removed.

The project instead worked with the NEC to maximise publicity for women and encouraged the NEC to hold radio briefings and outreach programs in the short time available including illustrations on social media of women in leadership.

The results of the process are as follows with 2019 Candidate numbers included as a comparison:



2021 Declaration of Intention			
	Female	Male	Total
Aiwo	2	8	10
Anabar	1	9	10
Anetan	0	8	8
Boe	0	6	6
Buada	2	11	13
Meneng	2	10	12
Ubenide	1	18	19
Yaren	4	4	8
Total	12	74	86
	14%	86%	

2019 Cand. Nomination		
Female	Male	Total
0	8	8
0	6	6
0	8	8
0	5	5
0	7	7
1	8	9
2	10	12
2	3	5
5	55	60
8%	92%	

While the process is unorthodox (in fact unprecedented as we can determine), the result does show a potentially higher number of female candidates than in 2019. While still extremely low on a global level the growth of female candidates is positive. Additionally, the possible candidates are now known so targeted support and information can now be provided to them in 2022.

The complete list of female candidates in Nauruan democracy is presented here for comparison:

Number of Candidates in Nauru General Elections, 1968-2019

Year	Male Candidates	Female Candidates	% Female Candidates	# Men Elected	# Women Elected
1968	55	1	1.8%	18	0
1971	48	0	0.0%	18	0
1973	40	0	0.0%	18	0
1976	43	0	0.0%	18	0
1977	50	0	0.0%	18	0
1980	39	1	2.6%	18	0
1983	42	3	7.1%	18	0
1986	43	1	2.3%	17	1
1987	45	3	7.0%	17	1
1989	40	2	5.0%	17	1
1992	67	3	4.5%	18	0
1995	61	4	1.6%	17	1
1997	67	4	6.0%	18	0
2000	69	3	4.3%	18	0
2003	80	4	5.0%	18	0
2004	71	2	2.8%	18	0
2007	79	7	8.8%	18	0
2010	55	5	9.1%	18	0
2013	63	5	7.9%	18~	1
2016	67	4	6.0%	18	1
2019	55	5	8.0%	17	2
Total	1124	54	4.8%		

~ The total number of MPs increased from 18 to 19 following an amendment to the electoral law in July 2012, enforced at the 8 June 2013 national elections

Output 4: National Civic Education Initiatives Piloted and Rolled Out

Curriculum Pilot Program

The inability to travel to Nauru to support the roll-out of the pilot curriculum forced a pivot to remote support to the implementation of the pilot curriculum. Also, due to the timing of the project launch which took place towards the end of the academic school year, a different target group was used for the pilot curriculum roll-out. The NEC arranged to run a series of lessons with youth recommended by the Department of Youth Affairs. The consultant met with the NEC facilitators of the curriculum (the two then Deputy Electoral Commissioners) to train and mentor them in delivering the pilot curriculum – one lesson at a time each week.

This model proved effective for the training of the NEC facilitators – providing time for them to 1) participate in training and 2) prepare for their lesson delivery, without taking them away from other priorities at this time.

Six training sessions were conducted, over 10 weeks, covering Lessons 1-6 of the curriculum.

Each session comprised a 'walk-through' of each of the exercises within the focus lesson, including a simulation of the exercise where the consultant played the role of teacher, and the NEC facilitators played the role of participant/learner. Then the NEC facilitators could play the role of teacher and they suggested methods and ways to adapt the exercises to suit their knowledge of the participants and the Nauruan context.

Through the training sessions, the NEC facilitators gained confidence and competency in delivering the curriculum, including adapting it to the Nauruan context.

As the facilitators gained confidence and competencies, the training sessions became shorter and more targeted, as the facilitators became more familiar with the content and methodology. They were highly engaged in the training sessions, and in making on the spot improvements to the curriculum.

The facilitators reported a high level of engagement by the young participants.



one of the curriculum sessions with the youth (discussing benefits to the 'democracy tree')

Pandemic Challenges

As mentioned, the curriculum was not formally launched in 2020, essentially due to the pandemic which slowed down the implementation of the teacher training and the piloting of the curriculum. The project had to be adjusted in terms of the outputs and the timeline for the implementation of the curriculum. In 2021, the continuation of the pandemic meant that again, the consultant was unable to travel to Nauru, and adjustments to the roll-out needed to be made.

The consultant communicated with the NEC via video conferencing throughout 2021, which, of course, had its advantages and disadvantages. Whilst meetings were regular, the NEC team sometimes had other operational commitments (such as the delivery of the national survey) that meant the lessons meetings were postponed and experienced problems with their internet connection, so this and other technical issues cut short or prevented some meetings from being completed or taking place.

Progress despite the slow roll-out of curriculum

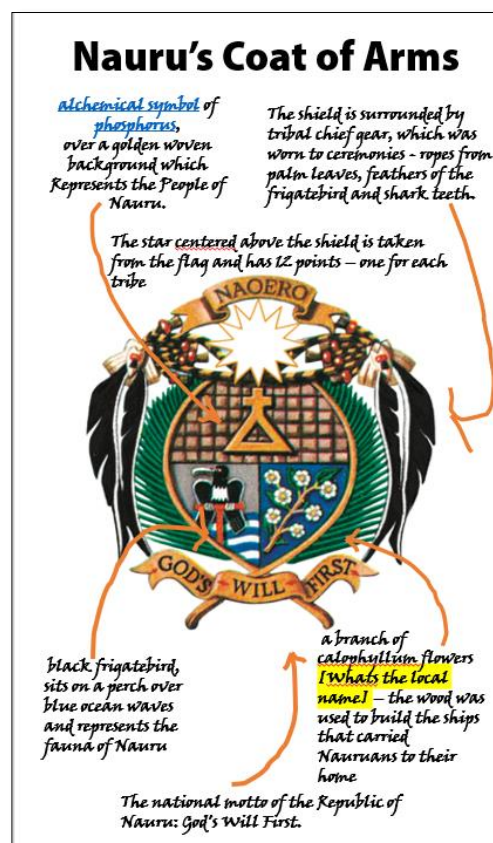
Although the progress on rolling out the Year 10 curriculum to the youth cohort was slow and not comprehensive (that is, the entire curriculum was not delivered) during 2021, progress was made on training the NEC personnel in delivering the curriculum. The consultant built a positive relationship during 2020 and 2021, and the NEC personnel involved in the curriculum pilot gained confidence and competence in the roll-out.

Revisions to the pilot civic education (CE) curriculum

The *Teacher Manual* had multiple small changes made after piloting. Fortunately, no widespread or major changes were necessary. All URLs listed in the manuals were checked and found to be working.

These version 1 manuals can now be uploaded to the NEC website (on a dedicated voter education page), and a print-run be considered for a 2022 pilot in schools and for publicity purposes.

As part of the curriculum roll-out, the second set of poster concepts that complement the curriculum was developed in 2021. This comprised of 7 posters on various themes relating to democracy and elections.



Poster concept developed in 2021

Development and Roll-Out of Civic Education (CE) Programs

Numerous informal and formal discussions with members of the NEC team informed the direction of planning for civic education.

The following documents informed discussions:

- 2019 Civic Voter Education Strategy 2019.01.28
- 2019 Public Outreach Operational Plan 2019.03.21
- 2019 Public Outreach Operational Timeline

The 2019 ‘Civic Voter Education Strategy’ and the 2019 ‘Public Outreach Operational Plan’ will serve as a good template for the 2022 Civic & Voter Education Strategy and Public Outreach Operational Plan – leading up to the 2022 national election.

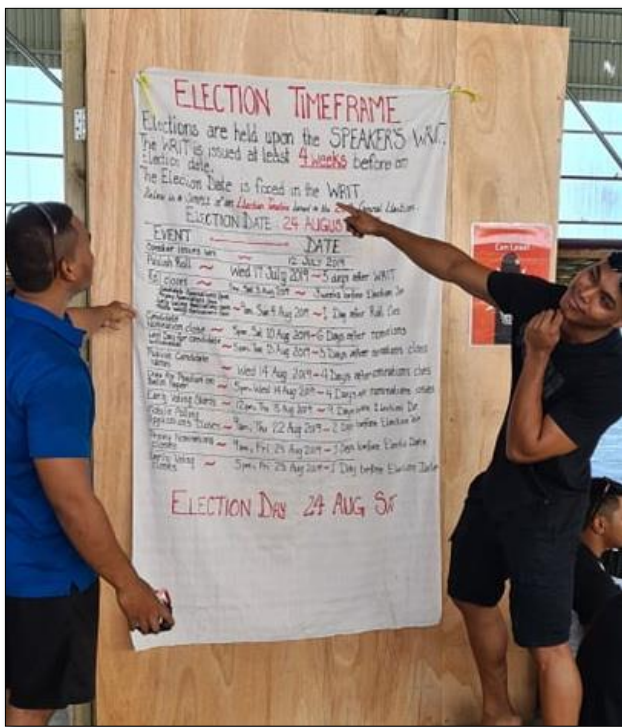
Both plans provide adequate direction for voter outreach and education – but will benefit from specific civic education goals and activities incorporated after a full review.

The development of the new NEC strategic plan will substantially assist future civic and voter education strategy and public outreach operational plans, as the last strategic plan expired at the end of 2020. Given the timing of the 2022 elections and the need for the workshop to be conducted in-person to maximise ownership by the NEC – this will be delayed until access becomes possible.

Outreach events

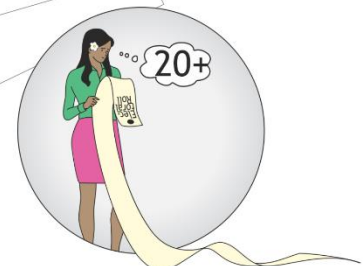
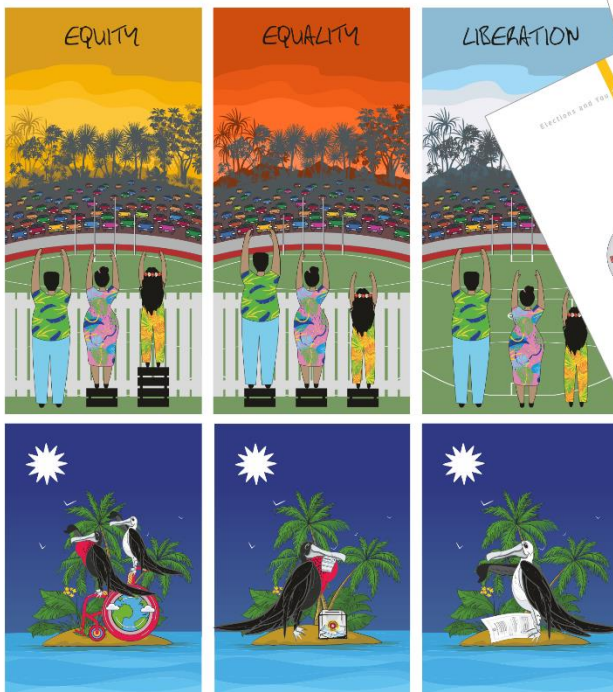
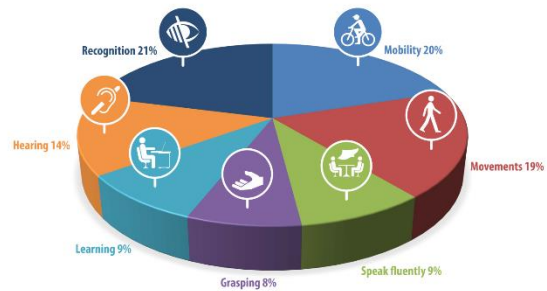
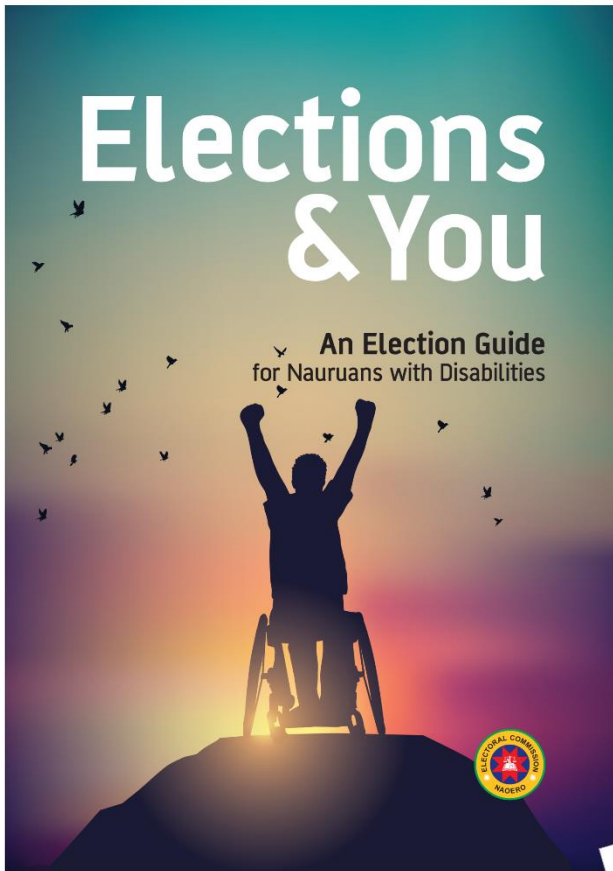
The NAIG proudly supported the NEC as it conducted outreach events in Q3/Q4. These include a cross-fit program with election messaging, a student prefect election and a USP election. Some pictures of the events follow:





Support to people with disabilities

The Project worked with the NEC to develop an easy read voting guide for people with disabilities.



The project also supported the NEC to cooperate on the manual's development with the Nauruan People with Disability CSO. This will be finalised in Q1 2022 (and will include a new cover).

The Project also held internal consultations with UNDP on how to progress access to the democratic processes for people with intellectual and psychosocial disabilities. This was generated with the publication: Political Participation of Persons with Intellectual or Psychosocial Disabilities (released in 2021 Q4)

<https://www.undp.org/publications/political-participation-persons-intellectual-or-psychosocial-disabilities>

The project is planning an awareness campaign around this topic – there is a significant degree of social stigma surrounding this issue that is pervasive across the region (and globally).

Part 2: Planned Activities for Next Quarter

Parliamentary Support

NAIG has a menu of activities outlined in the draft 2022 Annual Work Plan consistent with the parliamentary autonomy. The project team has already started preliminary discussions with the parliament leadership on their priorities for quarters 1 and 2, some of which include the revision of parliament standing orders, the development of their strategic plan and the procurement of ICT equipment for the parliament.

Preparations are also underway for the project board meeting which should be convened before the end of Q1.

Electoral Support

Q1 and Q2 2022 will have a key focus on the 2022 electoral operations planning.

This includes a complete revision and amplification of the outreach plan, full revisions of all manuals and processes around elections, review of polling procedures to incorporate COVID preventative measures, election material procurement support, development of MoUs to support the NEC in its mandate to ensure compliance with the legal framework, support for voter registration.

Part 3: Partnerships

Implementing Partner (IP) and Focal Point Contact	Type of Partnerships/ Role	Duration of Partnership	Progress of Deliverables from Partnership
<p>Nauru Electoral Commission Focal Point: Sylvanna Deireragea, Commissioner, Address: NEC Office, Civic Center, Aiwo, Nauru Phone: 5573897 Email: commissioner@electoralcommission.org.nr</p>	<p>Oversees and is responsible for elections and referendums, Implementing Parliament</p>	<p>4 years</p>	<p>Provision of office space and the internet.</p>
<p>Parliament Ms Ann-Marie Cain Clerk of Nauru Parliament Phone: 557 3133 ext. 307</p>	<p>Implementing Parliament</p>	<p>4 years</p>	<p>Provision of office space and a vehicle for use by UNDP staff</p>

Part 4: Risk and Assumptions

Risk	Mitigation Action	Timeframe	Mitigation Action Progress
Political and organisational environment impacts project implementation through events, such as political tension, suspension of elections.	Build trust through continuous dialogue with Nauru EMB and National Parliament, to retain flexibility, strong stakeholder ownership, accountability through oversight by the Project Board. Build formal and informal networks with a broad spectrum of champions across and within project stakeholders and NGOs.	Length of project	Advisers integrated into EMB and Parliament, PBM to be held, Project focused on primary stakeholder but interactions with others focus on technical nature of advice provided
Change in priority areas for stakeholders resulting in a lack of priority to implement project activities.	Technical Advisors to monitor and report on progress to the Project Board, UNDP and donors, and flag possible changes in prioritisation for discussion.	Length of project	Donors and UNDP kept informed of developments through PBM, reporting, & other methods
Capacity constraints in EMB and Parliament impact on project activities	Careful and pragmatic prioritisation, planning and sequencing of project activities will be undertaken with the assistance of the UNDP Pacific Office in Fiji and the UNDP Project advisers' updates to the Project Board on potential challenges and mitigation strategies are identified early, that change leaders are identified early, and over-ambitious scheduling is avoided. Ensure that the pace of implementation is appropriate to avoid 'project	Length of project	Operation and legal timelines compiled, and allowances made for changes in election dates Project Board fully informed Implementation timeline matches the election cycle and EMB planning. Approval for AWP to be given by PBM

	<p>fatigue’ and matches the absorption capacity.</p> <p>Ensure the scope of activities and terms of references are endorsed by stakeholders.</p>		
<p>Reduction in ownership and engagement by stakeholders and project results in delays or halt to project implementation.</p>	<p>Appropriate project management arrangements established and maintained to ensure stakeholder understanding of project management tools, including annual work planning processes, corporate procurement practices and timelines.</p> <p>Ensure the project is fully staffed and supporting project teams provide effective and timely services.</p> <p>Active Project Board monitoring and oversight is taking place.</p>	<p>Length of project</p>	<p>AWP to be shared and agreed upon with implementing partners. Procurement activities agreed between project and implementing partners.</p>
<p>Natural disasters that impact directly on stakeholder priorities and ability to implement and participate in activities under the project – including Covid.</p>	<p>Ensure flexible schedule for activity implementation to minimise the potential impact on outputs and ensure sequenced and timely implementation of project activities, with adjustments made where necessary.</p>	<p>Length of the project with a focus on the election period</p>	<p>Redundancy planning is in operational planning. Regular conference calls with NEC and Parliament are in place to mitigate COVID impact.</p>

Part 5: Knowledge Management and Communication

The following key documents were produced in Q3 and Q4.

- NEC Count Manual (Final)
- NEC Form Anthology (Version 2)
- Year 10 Civic Education Curriculum (Student Manual) (final)
- Year 10 Civic Education Curriculum (Teachers Guide) (final)
- Manual for Nauruans with Disabilities (draft)
- Legal Reform Proposal

Part 6: Key Lessons Learnt and Challenges

Impact of Covid zoom limited results and delivery. Poor internet and challenges with timing delayed many scheduled meetings. While these challenges were significantly mitigated by the genuine rapport between the project and its implementing partners, they did result in slowdowns and required some activities to be redesigned – this included the planned roll-out of the curriculum. This did mean that a genuine pilot could be conducted by the NEC themselves and in doing so ensured their ownership of the material.

Face to face time to delve into the significant work to be achieved is the utmost priority going forward and staff will be in Nauru in Q1 of 2022 for both parliamentary and electoral support. As Nauru is one of the last nations on earth to remain Covid Free, staff will take utmost care and ensure full compliance with the Covid management operations in Nauru.

The structure of the NEC has led to the need for internal disambiguation on roles that has delayed implementation for several key activities. Again, being able to hold face to face discussions is the key to ensuring that all parties are happy with the new arrangements and that priorities can be set as needed.

Capacity challenges in the Parliament of Nauru result in the need to: i) upskill current staff on their areas of work and responsibilities; and ii) recruit qualified staff for key positions like Committees Secretaries and Information Technology (IT) etc.

Part 7: Sustainability and Scaling Up

Sustainability

Every product developed in Nauru has been designed to have maximum sustainability:

1. Electoral forms continue to be standardized to manage all electoral operations – this includes new forms required for the Poll and Declaration of intent processes.

2. Templates continue to be developed for certificates, forms, cover pages, and manuals that can be easily reused and changed as needed without external support.
3. The NEC website is created as a repository of information and an archive for each election. More are being added. This also contributes to transparency. Parliament will launch a similar website.

Archiving continues to be a priority for the NESP and ensures that all NEC staff know where documents can be found and how to store new files. This now includes a complete collection of all illustrations and images used by the NEC – these can now be used in presentations and materials developed in the future by the NEC without the need for a graphic designer.

Scaling Up

Once tested and refined, the curriculum and outreach products can be easily adapted for other pacific contexts. This has formed the basis of work on a similar curriculum in Vanuatu.

The work that was done on outreach in 2019 can now be built upon to develop not just voter information and education but also into a full civic education program using the methods of delivery that have proven to work – while also looking at new delivery methods.

The project will work in Q1 of 2022 to develop a baseline study of access to democratic processes for people with intellectual and psychosocial disabilities. This study would be significantly more valuable if it was to extend to the whole pacific region and eventually be ported to a global product. Nauru has a permissive legal framework for access by people with these disabilities but has a less permissive social environment. Developing conversations around this issue in the community can provide some good lessons on how to hold these conversations to the best effect in the Pacific.

Part 8: Quarter 3/4 2021 Financial Report

Output	Planned Activities	Budget	Expenditure	Balance
Output 1:	Activity 1.1	60,000	10656.77	49,343.23
	Activity 1.2	60,000	15183.2	44,816.80
	Activity 1.3	50,000	0	50,000
	Activity 1.4	136,525	0	136,525
Output 1		306,525	25,839.97	280,685.03
Output 2:	Activity 2.1	70,000	164,947.24	-94,947.24
	Activity 2.2	70,000	3,312.77	66,687.23
	Activity 2.3	60,000	0	60,000
	Activity 2.4	60,000	0	60,000
	Activity 2.5	54,858	7985.5	46,872.50
Output 2		314,858	176,245.51	138,612.49
Output 3:	Activity 3.1	130,000	0	130,000
	Activity 3.2	50,000	0	50,000
	Activity 3.3	50,000	0	50,000
	Activity 3.4	54,858	0	54,858
Output 3		284,858	0	284,858
Output 4:	Activity 4.1	80,000	2098.62	77,901.38
	Activity 4.2	130,000	0	130,000
	Activity 4.3	54,858	0	54,858
Output 4		264,858	2098.62	262,759.38
Project Administration		93,687.92		
TOTALS		1,264,786.92	204,184.10	966,914.90

Part 9: List of Evidence Provided as Annex

- Nauru People with Disabilities Voting Manual

