

PROJECT PROGRESS REPORT (ANNUAL) TEMPLATE

January - December 2025

Project Summary Information	
Project Title	The BALLOT
Quantum Project ID	01004532
Project Duration	1 January 2025 - 31 December 2027
Gender Marker	GEN 2
Total Budget	USD 9.8 Million
Donors (funding sources)	JAPAN, Australia, Sweden, Norway, FCDO
Budget (annual budget)	USD 8.0 Million
Expenditure recorded for the reporting period	USD 7.7 Million
Expenditure recorded for the total project	USD 7.7 Million
Project Manager's Name	Andres Del Castillo Sanchez

1. Executive Summary (1000 characters maximum)

Aligned with CPD Outcome 3, the project contributed to strengthening inclusive, participatory, and accountable governance by supporting institutional reforms that enhance the credibility, accessibility, and transparency of electoral processes in Bangladesh. The interventions reinforced the rule of law by improving the institutional readiness of election management bodies, promoting safeguards for information integrity, and advancing digital governance practices. The project also advanced UNDP's commitment to non-discrimination and gender-responsive governance by integrating inclusion considerations for women, youth, persons with disabilities, and marginalized groups into policy dialogue and institutional practices. Support to the information ecosystem contributed to more informed civic engagement and resilience against misinformation, fostering conditions for peaceful and tolerant political participation. Implementation was challenged by political uncertainty and operational constraints; however, adaptive delivery modalities enabled continuity. Key lessons underscore the importance of flexible programming, institutionalization of inclusive practices, and sustained investment in institutional capacity to achieve durable governance outcomes.

2. Progress Review

a) Key results achieved (2000 characters maximum)

The project achieved system-level results in strengthening the credibility, inclusiveness, and resilience of electoral governance in Bangladesh. Modernization of core electoral infrastructure and data systems resulted in a more accurate, secure, and trusted voter register, including the inclusion of 5.8 million new voters and the validation of records for 127.6 million citizens, reducing structural risks to electoral integrity and reinforcing public confidence in democratic processes. Targeted institutional reforms expanded access to participation, with measurable progress in women's inclusion and the formal recognition of gender-diverse populations, directly advancing gender equality and non-discrimination outcomes.

Digitalization and innovation strengthened institutional resilience and information integrity. The project supported the Election Commission to pilot feasible Out-of-Country Voting modalities and launch a digital OCV application, laying out the foundation for secure participation of approximately 1.5 million eligible overseas voters. The eMonitor+ platform institutionalized real-time monitoring and response to online harms, identifying and verifying 1,248 cases of misinformation and technology-facilitated gender-based violence and facilitating coordinated action with relevant agencies. Complementary investments in cybersecurity, artificial intelligence, and crisis management strengthened the capacity of over 600 officials to manage technology-enabled electoral risks and meet emerging global standards.

Inclusive governance was embedded within electoral reform processes through structured policy dialogue, ensuring that the priorities of women, youth, persons with disabilities, and marginalized communities informed institutional decision-making. Institutional adoption of accessibility measures, including sign language interpretation, strengthened the responsiveness and inclusiveness of electoral governance.

b) Output progress

Output statement	Baselines Value type	Indicators	Annual Targets	End of the project target	Progress	Means of verifications and comments to substantiate the selected response
Output 1: Legitimate, Inclusive, and transparent electoral process is delivered through strengthened	integer	1.1.1 # of eligible new voters registered in updated voter list	5,000,000	5,000,000	5,845,023	BEC Voter registration database, BEC official memo dated 18 November 2025
	integer	1.1.2 # of outdated/deceased/dupl	1,500,000	1,500,000	2,132,590	

Output statement	Baselines Value type	Indicators	Annual Targets	End of the project target	Progress	Means of verifications and comments to substantiate the selected response
d institutional, technical and operational capacities of the BEC		icate voters removed				
	integer	1.1.3 # of strategic communication activities implemented	12	12	10	BEC/UNDP progress reports
	integer	1.1.4 Stakeholder engagement meetings through platforms for dialogue conducted	10	10	9	meeting records, participant lists
	integer	1.1.5 # of ink units delivered to BEC	950,000	950,000	950,000	Letter from BEC, Handover meeting notes
	integer	1.1.6 # of stamp pads units delivered to BEC	950,000	950,000	950,000	
	integer	1.1.7 # of training on capacity building for BEC Staff	10	10	10	Regional Integrated Training Program Report
	integer	1.1.8 # of policy dialogues	5	5	3	Event reports, photo

Output statement	Baselines Value type	Indicators	Annual Targets	End of the project target	Progress	Means of verifications and comments to substantiate the selected response
		on the Out of Country Voting (OCV)				
Output 2: An enabling environment for the conduct of elections that supports the rights of all citizens to participate in peaceful, inclusive and transparent electoral process is supported	integer	1.2.1 # of training conducted by the CSOs, on strengthening voter education efforts with the support of the project	5	5	4	CSOs and UNDP Reports, photo
	integer	1.2.2 # of digital voter education campaigns implemented	5	5	4	UNDP Reports
	integer	1.2.3 # of journalists trained in ethical reporting and misinformation	500	500	429	Training reports, photo
	integer	1.2.4 # of stories fact-checked through the UNDP digital platform	1,000	1,750	1,248	UNDP e-Monitor plus Report, MRDI report, photo

Output statement	Baselines Value type	Indicators	Annual Targets	End of the project target	Progress	Means of verifications and comments to substantiate the selected response
Output 3: The political transition is facilitated, governance sustainability is promoted, and resilience is strengthened	integer	1.3.1 # of platforms for dialogue on the progress of the electoral reform agenda	5	11	5	BEC Documentation
	integer	1.3.2 # of training sessions supported for the ETI	5	11	5	ETI Curriculum

Data sources and references (can be prepared as an annex with details)

3. Communications, visibility, and partnerships (1000 characters maximum)

The BALLOT project adopted a multi-channel communication, visibility, and partnership strategy to deliver neutral civic and electoral information nationwide with a focus to Leave No One Behind. The approach placed particular emphasis on youth, indigenous communities, persons with disabilities, women, third gender and economically disadvantaged groups, including Dalit and Bihari youth. A wide range of outreach activities was implemented to maximize engagement and accessibility. These included street drama performances, social media campaigns, divisional youth consultation meetings, courtyard meetings, marathons, inclusive cricket matches and chess competitions for persons with disabilities, “Meet the Candidate” forums, and leaflet distribution in Bangla and five indigenous languages. With the aim to maintain strong visibility and engagement during the reporting through the UNDP, the Bangladesh Election Commission (BEC), UN Women, UNESCO, the Youth Policy Forum (YPF), and Catch Bangladesh, alongside national print and electronic media.

1. BEC website: <https://ecs.gov.bd/video-gallery>
2. BEC Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/BangladeshECS>
3. Catch Bangladesh: <https://futurebangladeshyouwant.org/resources>
4. UNDP BD: <https://www.facebook.com/UNDPBD>
5. UNDP LinkedIn: <https://www.linkedin.com/company/undpbangladesh/posts/?feedView=all>

4. Project risks and mitigation measures (1000 characters maximum)

The project faces persistent and emerging risks linked to political volatility, delayed legal reforms, perceptions of electoral exclusion, and threats to electoral integrity, including

disinformation, misuse of resources, and gender-based violence in the electoral context. These risks are mitigated through support to the Election Commission to advance legal and procedural clarity, promote inclusive public messaging, and strengthen oversight and accountability mechanisms. Investments in media ethics, strategic communication, and digital monitoring help counter misinformation and hate speech, while safeguarding and gender-responsive protocols strengthen institutional responses to violence against women. Operational risks, including climate-related disruptions, are addressed through contingency planning to ensure continuity of electoral operations. Risk management is guided by regular risk matrix reviews and updates, continuous contextual analysis of the external and internal operating environment, and, where required, escalation to the Project Board to enable timely course correction and strategic oversight.

[Most updated Offline Risk Register.](#)

5. Lessons Learned (800 characters maximum)

Effective delivery of large-scale electoral support requires strong institutional rapport with the Election Commission and sustained coordination across government, civil society, and development partners. The project demonstrated that digitalization and electoral system modernization are most effective when technical planning, procurement, and capacity development are synchronized with institutional operational calendars. Inclusive engagement of women, youth, persons with disabilities, and marginalized groups strengthened the legitimacy and public trust of reform processes. Targeted capacity building enhanced institutional resilience to emerging technological and integrity risks. Flexible, adaptive management, institutional agility to accommodate evolving stakeholder needs, and strong internal coordination were critical to maintaining momentum and delivering quality results in a dynamic political environment.

6. Way Forward (800 characters maximum)

In early 2026, the project will prioritize consolidating electoral reforms and tracking commitments to ensure continuity and accountability through the 12 February 2026 elections and the post-election period. Support will focus on strengthening BEC's digital and operational capacity, including digitization of Electoral Training Institute, results management, and information integrity systems (eMonitor+), alongside expanded training for BEC officials on gender, inclusion, crisis management. Multi-pronged online and offline voter awareness campaigns and nationwide youth engagement will be scaled. Electoral security preparedness will be strengthened. Inclusive, gender-responsive practices will be deepened through targeted engagement with women, youth, persons with disabilities, and support to women journalists. Institutionalized multi-stakeholder dialogue platforms will promote peaceful participation, conflict mitigation, and post-election accountability.

Priority actions for the project and other teams before the next reporting cycle.

Issue/observation	Action to be taken	Responsible	Timeline
Continuing technical support to BEC	Continuing technical support (e.g. voter outreach campaign, logistics, TBC, IEC materials) to BEC	Chief Technical Adviser and Team	December 2026
Coordination and Communication	Maintain routine coordination and communication with BEC and donor community and sharing the progress.	Chief Technical Adviser and Team	December 2026

Issue/observation	Action to be taken	Responsible	Timeline
Information Integrity & Media using eMonitor+	Process and analyze social media monitoring to identify critical trends, including mis/disinformation, hate speech and gender-based violence information by Artificial Intelligence (AI) and Human Monitors.	eMonitor team lead by Electoral Digital Solutions Specialist	December 2026
Voter education	Develop and implement public multipronged voter awareness campaigns using approaches both online and off online.	BALLOT with Partners	December 2026
Youth engagement	Nationwide youth engagement workshops organized with a focus on countering mis/disinformation.	BALLOT with Partners	December 2026
Journalists training	Provided specialized capacity-building support for women journalists to strengthen ethical, safe, and inclusive election coverage	BALLOT with Partners	December 2026
Meet the candidate program	Provide technical support to design, implement and monitor the meet the candidate program.	BALLOT with Partners	February 2026
Monitoring, Progress tracking and sharing update	Continuously keep track the project progress and prepare factsheet for inter and external stakeholders.	Monitoring and Program team	December 2026

7. Annexures

Provide links to the sources of evidence (based on entries described in Q2 and 3)

Output statement	Indicators	Data sources and references
Output 1: Legitimate, Inclusive, and transparent electoral process is delivered through strengthened institutional, technical and operational capacities of the BEC	1.1.1 # of eligible new voters registered in updated voter list	BEC Memo on Voter number .pdf
	1.1.2 # of outdated/deceased/duplicate voters removed	
	1.1.3 # of strategic communication activities implemented	https://ecs.gov.bd/video-gallery https://www.facebook.com/BangladeshECS https://futurebangladeshyouwant.org/resources https://www.facebook.com/UNDPBD https://www.linkedin.com/company/undpbangladesh/posts/?feedView=all
	1.1.4 Stakeholder engagement meetings through platforms for dialogue conducted	1. National Consultation on the Inclusion of Persons with Disabilities in the Electoral Process: https://www.undp.org/bangladesh/press-releases/call-disability-inclusive-elections 2. Persons with disabilities submit recommendations to EC ahead of Feb polls:

Output statement	Indicators	Data sources and references
		https://www.dhakatribune.com/bangladesh/election/395712/persons-with-disabilities-submit-election Women's Manifesto and Inclusive National Election: https://www.prothomalo.com/roundtable/b7u7wgzrje https://www.undp.org/bangladesh/publications/womens-manifesto United Nations holds briefing for political parties on support to Bangladesh for upcoming elections: https://bangladesh.un.org/en/306490-united-nations-holds-briefing-political-parties-support-bangladesh-upcoming-elections *** Other meeting documents
	1.1.5 # of ink units delivered to BEC	1. Electoral Materials Handed Over to BEC: https://www.undp.org/bangladesh/press-releases/electoral-materials-handed-over-bec-support-japan
	1.1.6 # of stamp pads units delivered to BEC	
	1.1.7 # of training on capacity building for BEC Staff	1. National Training Series Launched to Strengthen Election Management Capacity Across Bangladesh: https://www.undp.org/bangladesh/press-releases/national-training-series-launched-strengthen-election-management-capacity-across-bangladesh
	1.1.8 # of policy dialogues on the Out of Country Voting (OCV)	1. Diaspora Voting Mechanism Workshops Photos 2. EC to launch expat voter registration app
Output 2: An enabling environment for the conduct of elections that supports the rights of all citizens to participate in peaceful, inclusive and transparent	1.2.1 # of training conducted by the CSOs, on strengthening voter education efforts with the support of the project	CSOs Training Photos and Attendance
	1.2.2 # of digital voter education campaigns implemented	1. Voter Registration & Voting Day Campaign https://ecs.gov.bd/video-gallery https://www.facebook.com/BangladeshECS 2. Youth Campaign Portal https://futurebangladeshyouwant.org/resources 3. Campaign Videos on UNDP Channel https://www.facebook.com/UNDPBD https://www.linkedin.com/company/undpbangladesh/posts/?feedView=all

Output statement	Indicators	Data sources and references
electoral process is supported	1.2.3 # of journalists trained in ethical reporting and misinformation	1. Journalists to Counter Disinformation Ahead of 13th Parliamentary Election ETI 2. Digital Literacy, Safety and Security training for Journalists conducted by UNESCO and MRDI
	1.2.4 # of stories fact-checked through the UNDP digital platform	Fact Checking Statistics through e Monitor+
Output 3: The political transition is facilitated, governance sustainability is promoted, and resilience is strengthened	1.3.1 # of platforms for dialogue on the progress of the electoral reform agenda	1. Diaspora Voting Mechanism Dialogues Photos 2. Round Table: Electoral Reform Agenda 3. Hill Tracts Consultation Meeting
	1.3.2 # of training sessions supported for the ETI	Training Contents and Module