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PROGRAMME SEMI-ANNUAL PROGRESS REPORT

Period: 1 January – 30 June 2019

Project Name	Programme for Support to Universal Suffrage Elections in the Federal Republic of Somalia UNDP Award ID000107518/ Project ID 000107800
Gateway ID	00108826 (MPTF Project ID)
Start date	1 January 2018
Planned end date (as per last approval)	31 December 2019 (Phase 1) 2020-2021 (Phase 2 and 3)
Focal Person	(Name): Filip Warnants
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Participating UN entities	UNDP and UNSOM (Integrated Electoral Support Group)
NDP Pillar	PWG Pillar 1: Inclusive Politics: Achieve a stable and peaceful federal Somalia through inclusive political processes and effective decentralization – SWG-3 Elections
UNSF Strategic Priority	Deepening federalism and state-building, supporting conflict resolution and reconciliation, & preparing for universal elections
Location(s)	National Programme – Mogadishu based
Gender Marker	2

Total Budget as per ProDoc (in USD)	8,571,300
MPTF:	7,252,245
Non-MPTF sources:	PBF: 0
	Trac: 11,865
	Other: 1,307,190

	PUNO	Report approved by:	Position/Title	Signature
1.	PWG-1 - UNDP	Jocelyn Mason	Resident Representative	

Total MPTF Funds Received (in USD)			Total non-MPTF Funds Received (in USD)	
PUNO	Reporting Period	Cumulative	Reporting Period	Cumulative
List Participating Agencies	1 Jan – 30 Jun	From prog. start date	1 Jan – 30 Jun	From prog. start date
UNDP	862,844.19	5,071,786.19	653,594.77	665,459.77



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JP Expenditure of MPTF Funds ¹ (in USD)			JP Expenditure of non-MPTF Funds (in USD)	
PUNO	Reporting Period	Cumulative	Reporting Period	Cumulative
List Participating Agencies	1 Jan – 30 Jun	From prog. start date	1 Jan – 30 Jun	From prog. start date
UNDP	1,427,382.65	4,802,537.02	509,556.35	521,421.35

SEMI-ANNUAL HIGHLIGHTS

1. On 20 May, the Ministry of Interior, Federal Affairs and Reconciliation (MoIFAR) presented to Parliamentary Members of the federal House of the People the draft electoral bill.
2. In the first months of 2019, the National Independent Electoral Commission (NIEC) opened offices in each of the capitals of the Federal Member States.
3. The NIEC developed a concept of operations and budget for the planned voter registration exercise in early 2020, which includes a phased approach to register Somali voters in all secure areas.
4. The NIEC announced in April that it had opted for an electronic voter registration methodology with facial recognition features.
5. UNDP launched in May the initial stage of a procurement process for potential vendors to express their interest to assemble and provide voter registration kits.

HIGHLIGHTS OF KEY ACHIEVEMENTS

In preparation for Somalia’s first ‘one person, one vote’ elections since 1969, the National Independent Electoral Commission (NIEC) started this year with the planning for the voter registration exercise to be conducted in the first half of 2020. With technical assistance from the UNDP/UNSOM Integrated Electoral Support Group (IESG), the NIEC has been working on a draft concept of operations and tentative budget for the 2020 voter registration exercise, including for the provisional voters list display and the voters card distribution. In April, the NIEC announced the decision on the voter registration methodology which includes electronic registration with facial recognition features. The NIEC had selected this method because of it reinforces the integrity of and trust in the electoral process. In the following months, the NIEC and UNDP will work on the procurement process for the required voter registration kits. Following a GIS desk study in late 2018 of concentrated population areas, the NIEC started in May with the field verification exercise the different Federal Member States and in Benadir to determine the location and feasibility for the establishment of voter registration (VR) centres. By the end of June, the NIEC completed the verification of potential VR centres in Benadir and South-West State, while field operations in Galmudug and Hirshabelle are ongoing and postponed in Jubbaland. Verification of sites still has to commence in Puntland where it remains stalled due to political differences between FGS and FMS.

In May, following cabinet approval the Federal Government of Somalia submitted the draft electoral bill to the Federal Parliament for discussion and adoption. The draft bill would be the country’s first electoral law and includes provisions that have significant constitutional and electoral operational implications. The bill, which also includes a provision for a minimum of 30 per cent women on the political party candidates’ lists, is currently in first reading at the House of the People. Concomitantly, the Cabinet submitted proposed amendments to the Political Party Law to the Federal Parliament for adoption. IESG discussed with the NIEC the various provisions of the draft electoral bill and requested NIEC to share the technical recommendations with the parliamentary committee reviewing the bill to strengthen the electoral legal

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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framework and allow for a smooth electoral operation.

To date, the NIEC has provided provisional registration of 50 political parties. As per the proposed amendment of the political party law, political parties will be granted official registration after submission of membership lists from at least 10,000 eligible voters from at least 9 of the 18 historic regions.

SITUATION UPDATE

On 27 March 2019, the UN Security Council unanimously passed Resolution 2461, extending the mandate of the United Nations Assistance Mission in Somalia (UNSOM) until 31 March 2020, and which emphasizes the UN's "political, technical, operational and logistical support to the federal government for the delivery of inclusive, peaceful, free and fair one-person-one-vote elections in 2020/2021". UNSCR 2461 underlines in particular the UN's support to NIEC at national and sub-national levels, for the Commission to fulfil its constitutional mandate in line with its Strategic Plan for 2017-2021. The Resolution also specifies the UN's support to a nationwide voter registration exercise in early 2020 and consequent polling operations for the 2020/2021 elections, as well as the coordination of international electoral support to Somalia. While the Security Council welcomed the agreement in Baidoa in June 2018 between the Federal Government and the Federal Member States on the electoral system of representation, the UNSCR expressed concerns about the delay in the passage of the Electoral Law, and urges the Government and Parliament to finalize and adopt the Electoral Law by mid-2019. On 30 May, the United Nations Secretary-General announced the appointment of James Swan of the United States as his Special Representative for Somalia (SRSG) and Head of the United Nations Assistance Mission in Somalia (UNSOM). He succeeds Nicholas Haysom of South Africa to whom the Secretary-General is deeply grateful for his dedicated service in UNSOM and Somalia at a challenging time. One of the SRSG's key responsibilities includes assistance to Somalia for its 2020/21 elections.

To strengthen the coordination of the international community on the required technical requirements for the NIEC's electoral preparations, the NIEC and IESG held a series of electoral information sharing meetings with international electoral stakeholders (23 January, 25 February, 15 April, and 10 June). The meetings were jointly chaired by the Deputy Special Representative for United Nations Assistance Mission in Somalia (DSRSG) and the NIEC Chairperson and different Commissioners. IESG also introduced in January to international partners its new Chief, Ms. Hiroko Miyamura, who has extensive electoral experience with the UN and was in 2014 in Somalia leading the UN electoral needs assessment mission (NAM) to establish IESG.

To enhance the NIEC's operational capacity, during the Board meeting on 20 April, donor partners approved the revised work plan for 2019 to utilize the left-over budget from 2018 for the construction of the NIEC's voter registration data centre and the procurement of vehicles for the different NIEC offices in the federal member states to move electoral materiel.

SEMI-ANNUAL PROGRESS REPORT RESULTS MATRIX

OUTCOME STATEMENT			
Somali institutions are enabled to run independent, impartial, transparent and inclusive elections			
Output 1: NIEC equipped with necessary capacities and structures to prepare for and conduct credible and inclusive elections			
INDICATOR	TARGET	PROGRESS ON OUTPUT INDICATOR²	
		REPORTING PERIOD	CUMULATIVE

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



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1.1 NIEC policies and procedures (governance, finance & admin, operations, electoral, legal, etc.) developed and endorsed to fulfil its mandate to prepare for and conduct electoral operations.	5	2	2
1.2 NIEC HQ office supported for its operational requirements.	1	Yes	Yes
1.3 FMS where NIEC has established sub-national presence.	5	5	5
1.4 Support to the NIEC's organizational capacity through national advisers embedded within the institution.	12	5	10
UNDP ONLY: sources of evidence (as per current QPR) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ NIEC advisor reports (monthly) ○ NIEC Q1-Q2/2019 report ○ NIEC 5-year Strategic Plan (2017-2021) ○ NIEC quarterly reports to the Federal Parliament ○ Social Media articles: NIEC Website (www.niec.so); NIEC Facebook page; NIEC twitter; UNSOM/UNDP Facebook page, twitter ○ Official NIEC presentations at PWG-1/SWG-3 and to donor partners and international community ○ Official documents signed between UNDP and the NIEC (Work Plan, Letter of Agreement) ○ Training and workshop reports/materials ○ IESG BTOR 			
Output 2: NIEC supported to enhance public awareness of electoral processes, including promotion of women's participation			
2.1 # of significant engagements the NIEC has rolled out (annually) with (sub-) national, including promoting enhanced women's participation actors on electoral processes.	10	8	38
2.2 NIEC public outreach and voter education plan developed, including focus on women's participation.	1	Yes	Yes
2.3 # of significant engagements the NIEC had with women groups on women's participation in electoral processes.	3	2	2
UNDP ONLY: sources of evidence (as per current QPR) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ NIEC advisor reports (monthly) ○ NIEC Q1-Q2/2019 report ○ NIEC 5-year Strategic Plan (2017-2021) ○ NIEC quarterly reports to the Federal Parliament ○ Social Media articles: NIEC Website (www.niec.so); NIEC Facebook page; NIEC twitter; UNSOM/UNDP Facebook page, twitter ○ Official NIEC presentations at PWG-1/SWG-3 and to donor partners and international community ○ Official documents signed between UNDP and the NIEC (Work Plan, Letter of Agreement) ○ Training and workshop reports/materials ○ IESG BTOR 			



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Output 3: Support to the NIEC's electoral operations			
3.1. # of political parties registered	N/A	15	50
3.2. VR methodology agreed by partners and VR plan developed	1	Yes	Yes
3.3. # of regions where potential voter registration sites are identified	18	9	9
3.4. Somalia electoral security taskforce Re-established	1	NO	NO
3.5 # of by-elections held	N/A	4	11
UNDP ONLY: sources of evidence (as per current QPR) Sources of evidence: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ NIEC certification political parties ○ NIEC certification of winners of by-elections for federal House of the People ○ NIEC operational plans for VR; updates on GIS mapping of voter catchment areas ○ IESG workshop materials for NIEC Voter Registration (VR) planning ○ Letter to the Minister of Internal Security and NIEC meeting with PM to initiate electoral security planning and reestablishment of the joint electoral security task force ○ NIEC quarterly reports to the Federal Parliament and to NSC ○ Social Media articles: NIEC Website (www.niec.so); NIEC Facebook page; NIEC twitter; UNSOM/UNDP Facebook page, twitter; ○ Official NIEC presentations to donor partners and international community; ○ NIEC advisor reports to UNDP ○ NIEC Q1-Q2/2019 report ○ IESG BTOR and IESG electoral operations planning 			
Output 4: Establishment of permanent NIEC office facilities			
Construction of phase two of NIEC HQ (Mog)	1	ongoing	0
Construction # of NIEC offices in the FMS	5	0	0
sources of evidence <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ NIEC letter with request for support ○ UNDP/IESG Board Approval for financial allocation ○ NIEC inauguration of completion of Phase1 of its future HQ ○ IESG and UNOPS reports to GOJ for construction of NIEC HQ ○ NIEC quarterly reports to the Federal Parliament ○ Official NIEC presentations to donor partners and international community; ○ IESG BTOR 			



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Output 5: Development of an enabling electoral legal electoral framework supported			
Electoral law adopted	1	0	0
<u>sources of evidence</u>			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ FGS submitted draft electoral law to Parliament (May) ○ Draft Electoral Law developed by MOIFAR, adjusted by Cabinet ○ NSC 'Baidoa Agreement' on electoral model ○ IESG briefing papers on electoral systems ○ NIEC briefings and reports on comments electoral law 			
Output 6: Successful Programme management			
unqualified audit report	1	1	1
<u>sources of evidence</u>			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Auditor reports ○ Presentation at PWG-1/SWG-3; Minutes PWG-1/SWG-3 ○ Prodoc / AWP / LOA ○ IESG resource mobilization paper 			

NARRATIVE

Since its early inception in 2015, the UN Integrated Electoral Support Group (IESG) provides capacity development support to the NIEC including electoral advice plus technical and budgetary assistance to build a solid and credible independent electoral institution, capable of planning and managing electoral processes according to its mandate and strategic plan. As Somalia did not have any universal suffrage elections in the last fifty years, and the preparations for the country's first universal "one-person one-vote" elections since 1969 are an enormously challenging undertaking, institutional capacity development of a strong and independent electoral administration body is a critical foundation.

Output 1: NIEC equipped with necessary capacities and structures to prepare for and conduct credible and inclusive elections

The Joint Programme continued to provide the technical and administrative capacity building and support of the NIEC Secretariat. A series of institutional capacity development programs were implemented during the past months such as electoral capacity development, operational management support, and organizational development through direct technical engagement with NIEC, on-the-job trainings, and specifically designed workshops. All capacity development support builds on the NIEC's five-year Strategic Plan (2017-2021); which serves as the institution's roadmap to prepare for universal elections in Somalia, with key focus on: institutional capacity development; electoral legislation and procedures; informing the electorate; voter registration; a level playing field for candidates, parties, media and observers; the conduct of credible, free and fair elections; and a post-election evaluation before initiating the next cycle.

During this reporting period, the NIEC expanded its organizational structure by having opened offices in each of the federal member states (Garowe, Dhusamareb, Jowhar, Baidao, and Kismayo, plus a field office for Benadir).

As part of strengthening the NIEC's administrative and finance systems, the Joint Programme for Electoral Support implements specific aspects of its programme through a Letter of Agreement (LOA) between the NIEC and UNDP.



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the LOA enables the NIEC to conduct procurement processes for activities of the workplan funded through UNDP.

The Joint Programme for Electoral Support continued with technical and budgetary support to the NIEC to further develop its Secretariat; such as the establishment of a Legal Unit (deployment of two advisors and three legal specialists (two women) financed through the LOA), the deployment of different other national advisors embedded in the Commission to strengthen the capacity and the support to the recruitment of 8 temporary interns to provide chances to young graduates, including 2 women.

To enhance the NIEC's electoral capacity and knowledge on procedures and training of future temporary electoral workers, IESG conducted a workshop on 'training the trainers' in Mogadishu in March-April with the assistance of international BRIDGE (Building Resources in Democracy, Governance and Elections) trainers. Out of the 16 trainees, 4 were women. NIEC staff were trained on modules that elaborates on the system of master trainers, the mechanics of cascade training, knowledge transfer, skills development and quality assurance. During voter registration and later during elections, the NIEC's field operations will comprise thousands of temporary election workers, and these workshops are aimed at training them properly in a very short time with limited resources. As a means to strengthen South-South cooperation, IESG invited Judge Johann Kriegler, former Chair of South Africa's Independent Electoral Commission and renowned senior international electoral expert and jurist, to speak to the Commissioners of the NIEC at a high-level workshop on 22-23 April in Mogadishu on building trust in a politically difficult and violent electoral environment, as well as on principles of electoral dispute resolution.

Output 2: NIEC supported to enhance public awareness of electoral processes, including promotion of women's participation

To enhance its engagements in the Federal Member States, the NIEC in 2018 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 the progress for 'one person, one vote' elections by end of 2020. Traveling to Puntland, Galmudug, Hirshabelle, South-West and Jubaland, the NIEC organized meetings on electoral issues with regional officials, local administration, and other groups.

While working concepts and planning for voter education later in 2019 and in 2020, the NIEC organized workshops with youth and women on voter education on 12-13 and 26-27 February. The NIEC estimates that women and youth constitute together almost 80% of voting population, both groups are vital target groups for the NIEC to focus its upcoming voter education campaigns. The workshops increased awareness of women and youth about their political rights and how their vote could make a difference. It also highlighted the vital role of women leaders in political parties and the electoral process. During the youth workshop on 12 and 13 February, 26 of the 80 participants were women. The workshop with women associations on 26 and 27 February had 82 women out of the 100 invitees.

On 25 and 26 May, the NIEC conducted a two-day consultation session with civil society on regulation for voter education. Participants included women groups, youth, academia, a representative from international organizations, community groups, professional associations, and unions. In total 53 people attended, of whom 13 were women. The objective of the workshop was to build reliable national and sub-national stakeholders who can deliver quick and reliable information into the eligible electorates since they have access to and are working with local communities. The consultation was productive and effective. The draft regulation was reviewed, debated, and amended.



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Output 3: Support to the NIEC's electoral operations

In March-April, the NIEC reviewed different possibilities and made a decision on the preferred methodology for voter registration, from a very high-tech supported process to a paper-based registration approach. Eventually, the NIEC favored for an electronic registration option with a photo taken to facilitate the deduplication process. In the context of Somalia, inclusiveness, accessibility, cost and security are key factors for the success of the voter registration process. As voters ideally should spend as little time as possible in the registration centers given security concerns, voter registration procedures and the used technology have to be as intuitive and simple as possible to avoid a time-consuming registration process. IESG and the NIEC organized different meetings with international partners to elaborate on the NIEC's decision of a voter registration methodology. The NIEC explained the different options they considered and why the selected methodology was decided in the context of Somalia. Key partners welcomed the adopted model.

Information on the number and locations of the potential voter registration centres will feed into the NIEC's operations plan. The list of these potential voter registration centres will need to also be vetted by the security services. Once approved by the Board of Commissioners, NIEC will inform donors on the required budget for voter registration and timely procurement of voter registration kits. In May, the NIEC, with IESG assistance, commenced the field exercise to identify potential voter registration sites in Benadir, Hirshabelle and South-West followed by Galmadug in June. Field verification of centres in Jubbaland has been put on hold till after the local elections in the upcoming months and for Puntland the NIEC is still in discussion with local authorities. The process in Puntland remains stalled due to political differences between FMS and FGS an the collapse of the meeting between FGS and FMS in Garowe in May. To ensure women engagement in the process, including in its staffing, the imposed a guideline to recruit at least 30% female enumerators on the ground for the verification exercise. At the end of June, out of the 92 temporary recruited enumerators, the female-male was 33% to 67%.

On 17 May, UNDP launched an international call for expression of interest of vendors so that NIEC and UNDP can identify and prequalify potential suppliers for the voter registration equipment. Exact specifications for the voter registration kits are to be defined and the invitations to bid will be subsequently sent to prequalified vendors in the next months. Once there is a clearer idea on the number of voter registration sites through the field verification exercise, NIEC and IESG will develop a comprehensive budget for the process. Resource mobilization for voter registration will further be informed by the donors' stock-taking on the country's general progress for electoral preparations.

In response to the NIEC proposal for the establishment of an elections-security task force for planning and execution of election security, the Prime Minister endorsed the proposal and instructed the relevant agencies to commence work on the establishment of an electoral security coordination task force. To date, the electoral security task force is still to be established. In collaboration with the African Union (AU) and co-supported by IESG, the National Independent Electoral Commission (NIEC) organized from 17 to 20 June a workshop on electoral security and dispute resolution, together with other government officials, Somali security actors and the AU's Assistance Mission in Somalia (AMISOM). Given threats of extremist forces, such as Al Shabaab, to undermine the elections as well as the preliminary security architecture of the country, the conduct of safe and peaceful elections in 2020 will be a major milestone for the Somali security actors in conjunction with the AMISOM troop contributing countries. A coherent and integrated security coordination mechanism which includes key security actors from the federal government, the federal member states and AMISOM and in close coordination with the NIEC, should be at



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the core from where all security planning will be rolled out to each of the voter registration centres across the country.

Output 4: Establishment of permanent NIEC office facilities

The NIEC is currently based in Mogadishu on a temporary basis within the Government's premises of Villa Somalia. The Joint Programme for electoral support has been assisting the NIEC to develop and enhance suitable office space inside Villa Somalia, including exploring assistance to refurbish certain rooms provided by the FGS.

In the long run, the UN Integrated Electoral Support Group helps the NIEC with setting up a permanent and independent headquarters outside Villa Somalia. In this respect, the Board approved to utilize left-over funding from 2018 for the construction of the NIEC's voter registration data centre. The mobilization of funds to proceed with construction of the rest of the NIEC headquarters is a key priority. The NIEC is reaching out to traditional and non-traditional donors to assist in the construction of different components of its future headquarters, such as a multi-functional training and media centre, warehouses for storage of sensitive and non-sensitive electoral materials, and the Commissioners and Secretariat offices.

Output 5: Development of an enabling electoral legal framework supported

On 2 May, the Council of Ministers endorsed the draft electoral bill, developed in 2018 by the Ministry of Interior, Federal Affairs and Reconciliation (MoiFAR). The endorsed draft bill includes some new elements compared to the earlier versions to which IESG provided technical assistance, and others provided comments. In addition, the FGS proposed amendments to the Political Party Law. One notable change was the need for 10,000 signatures of 'eligible' voters (instead of registered voters) from at least 9 of the 18 regions (that existed before 1991) as a requirement for political parties to become officially registered. The National Independent Electoral Commission (NIEC) was present in Garowe to provide FMS leaders clarifications on the planning for 'one person, one vote' elections and the technical aspects as stipulated in the current draft electoral bill. As the Garowe meeting between the FGS and FMS did not result in an agreement, the Prime Minister urged the FMS leaders to convey their comments on the bill through the FMS representatives in the Upper House.

On 20 May, the Minister of Interior presented the Electoral Bill to the members of the House of the People. IESG discussed with the NIEC the latest adjustments in the draft bill and requested the NIEC to share with the Parliament certain technical recommendations and comments that would strengthen the electoral legal framework.

Other Key Achievements

NA

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

The transition from a clan-based system (as in 2016) to 'one person, one vote' elections poses big challenges for the country with many uncertainties at this stage. Major challenges identified in the Roadmap for 2020 elections include the development of sound electoral building blocks for this process, such as the establishment of an adequate electoral legal framework, the registration of political parties, an inclusive voter registration exercise, a sound electoral management body, and the set-up of an electoral dispute resolution mechanism.

In addition to these core electoral challenges, a wider range of concerns affect the conduct of credible elections in Somalia, such as security, limited capacity and funding, logistical and operational difficulties, the question of the type of federalism the country is moving towards to, and an incomplete legal framework which needs inclusive



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political decision-making on crucial electoral elements. These factors are not fully part of the scope of the Joint Programme for Electoral Support nor within the direct control of electoral counterparts such as the NIEC. An inclusive politics strategy for this electoral cycle has been formalized to coordinate the higher-level policy issues such as the constitutional review process, the choice of electoral systems, state building, and rule of law. To manage programmatic challenges depending on political progress, the Project developed a phased approach to outline donor funding requirements. Funding is linked to achievement of specific milestones and targets in each phase:

- Phase 1: development of electoral building blocks, including Electoral Law and NIEC’s institutional capacity (2018 and 2019 to ensure continuity)
- Phase 2: support to Voter Registration (depending on progress, envisaged from second half of 2019 till mid-2020)
- Phase 3: support to Electoral Operations (depending on progress, envisaged from mid-2020 till early 2021)

At the end of 2018, partners agreed that Phase 1 would be extended into 2019 to ensure continuity and continuous support for the development of the required electoral building blocks. Stock is to be taken in mid-2019 to assess progress on the key milestones for Phase 1: in particular the adoption of the Electoral Law, the NIEC’s establishment of its offices in the FMS, and the development of comprehensive plan for voter registration. This will enable all partners to assess the scope of support for Phase 2, with focus on voter registration, envisaged to be rolled out in early 2020. Next, upon successful and inclusive Voter Registration, Phase 3 will include the scope and support for elections. For Phase 2 and 3, stock will be taken continuously on progress and achievements of milestones, and the Joint Programme will be reviewed and amended for the next steps and phases in preparation for voter registration of consequently nation-wide universal suffrage elections.

The inability of attracting adequate funds on time for the conduct of electoral activities may become an obstacle in holding timely elections. While efforts are made to keep costs reasonably low, international partners may not come forth with required funding without more clarity on the Government’s financial contribution to the electoral process, and more importantly, without signs of clear political commitment from Somali political actors to the electoral process.

Peacebuilding impact
NA

Catalytic effects
NA

Gender
The UN electoral programme works closely with the UNSOM Gender Unit, UNDP’s project on women’s participation in political processes, 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 for Electoral Support has been assisting the NIEC to conduct activities and plan projects to promote participation of women in electoral processes – including as potential voters, candidates and election officials, and as overall participants in electoral processes.

Proportion of gender specific outputs	Total no. of Joint Programme Outputs	Total no. of gender specific Outputs
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in Joint Programme ³ 1	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 of different international and regional treaties and has obliged itself to follow key human rights standards, includes clauses as stipulated in Art 25 of the ICCPR that “every citizen shall have the right and the opportunity, without unreasonable restrictions, to vote and to be elected at genuine periodic elections which shall be by universal and equal suffrage and shall be held by secret ballot, guaranteeing the free expression of the will of the electors. the right of every citizen to vote”. The Joint Programme is designed according to this fundamental right with the aim to move the country from a clan-based limited franchise electoral process as in 2016/17 into universal suffrage elections in 2020/2021. Specific objectives in this regard, amongst other, include enhancing the independence of the NIEC, promoting inclusiveness during the voter registration, and ensuring a level playing field for all actors ensured in the different electoral laws.

Has the Joint Programme included a protection risk assessment in its context analysis, including on gender issues, and taken measures to mitigate these risks to ensure they are not exacerbated or new risks created?	Result (Yes/No)
	YES
No. of Joint Programme outputs specifically designed to address specific protection concerns.	Result (No.)
	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

Does the Joint Programmes have a national cost-sharing component (i.e. funds and/or other resources provided by the FGS and/or FMS (including in-kind contributions)? (if ‘Yes’, describe below).	Results (Yes/No)
	No
Have FMS(s) been engaged in one or more of the following: design, planning, implementation, coordination and/or monitoring of the Joint Programme.	Results (Yes/No)
	No

Describe nature of cost sharing:

Communications & Visibility

The project disseminates monthly newsletters, which highlight the donor logos, to all partners. Besides regular bilateral meetings with respective donor partners, IESG presented project and electoral updates to the meetings of the Pillar Working Group on Inclusive Governance (PWG-1) and the Sub Working Group on Elections (SWG-3). In addition, the UN Integrated Electoral Support Group (IESG) organized additional coordination meetings with donor

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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partners and other international electoral assistance providers to the NIEC, to share updates and strengthen coordination amongst international partners. Together with the NIEC, IESG has set up an information sharing meeting with international partners, which meets regularly to provide updates and share information and areas of support.

In accordance with the EU-UNDP joint Guidelines on Electoral Assistance, the Joint Programme provided each month its input to UNDP's Global Project for Electoral Cycle Support (GPECS). These monthly global Updates are shared to the EU as part of the EU-UNDP communications and visibility framework for electoral projects.

The Joint EC-UNDP Task Force on Electoral Assistance, based in Brussels, launched the website on the UN's electoral assistance to Somalia, supported by the EU. The website aims to inform EU partners and the public at large on the UN's electoral assistance programme in Somalia, as well as on other EU-supported UNDP electoral projects in the world. <https://somalia.ec-undp-electoralassistance.org/>

Banners with donor logos, the EU, Germany, Sweden, and the UK/DFID have been designed and used by the NIEC, in particular but not limited to when organizing workshops and posts on social media.

Looking ahead

Electoral Law

In May, the Cabinet submitted the draft Electoral Law to the Parliament. The Electoral Law is an essential priority for the Federal Government of Somalia as it defines the future system of representation and the regulatory framework for the NIEC to organise universal suffrage elections. While it was initially envisaged the Law would be adopted before the end 2018, the NIEC and electoral stakeholders hope that the law could be discussed and adopted by Parliament in the next couple of months. Protracted delays in the approval process of the electoral law affects the technical capability of the NIEC to prepare for voter registration and hence could risk undermining the electoral timeline and the overall confidence in the process.

Voter registration

In July, the NIEC presents to partners its concept of operations and budget for the voter registration exercise, starting in late March 2020. IESG and NIEC have initiated the procurement process for voter registration kits and aim to invite qualified bidders to Mogadishu to test prototypes later this year under actual conditions, before a final vendor selection will be made. Resource mobilization for voter registration will further be informed by the donors' stock-taking on the country's general progress for electoral preparations. Funding for voter registration kits need to be available by late November 2019 to allow for procurement of the voter registration kits by early December 2019 to have the kits ready for the March 2020 voter registration exercise.

Resource mobilization

Progress both on the development of the electoral law and the NIEC's development of a sound and detailed plan and budget for voter registration operations plan will facilitate the discussions in the next months in 2019 on further resource mobilization for the preparations of voter registration. Achievements in this regard will inform international partners on the required electoral support in late 2019 and 2020. Close coordination between national and international partners (NIEC, UN, donor partners, relevant international stakeholders, electoral partners, key actors of the FGS, etc.) will be required to navigate jointly towards the next phases of preparations for the country's first universal elections since 1969, starting with the preparations for voter registration. Setting out milestones, stock-taking of critical success factors and review of key results areas are envisaged to be essential to move forward to Somalia's path of multi-party universal suffrage elections. In terms of programming, it is essential for the Project to work on commitments from international partners, to ensure that the preparations for voter registration remain on



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track hand-in-hand with the NIEC strategic plan and decision-making.



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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.	<p>The Government issued in January 2018 its Roadmap for elections in 2020/2021, confirming its commitment to universal suffrage elections. This commitment was also underscored in the FGS-FMS NSC meetings in February and June 2018.</p> <p>The renewed mandate of UNSOM underscores the UN’s support to universal elections. Based on the recommendations of the NAM, a new Programme outlines the parameters of UN support to universal elections, broken down in different essential building blocks.</p>
Political	Risk that protracted discussion on the electoral legal framework, in particular the adoption of the Electoral Law, would jeopardize the electoral timeline and the affect the preparations for voter registration.	A draft Electoral Law has been submitted to Parliament by Cabinet in May 2019.
Political	Risk that limited government capacity and unknown access and effectiveness at the sub-national level affects sound programme implementation, supervision, monitoring and evaluation	The JP for Electoral Support assists the NIEC with its engagements with the FMS and the establishment of sub-national electoral offices.
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	The JP for Electoral Support 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	Close coordination with security sector, including joint deployment of international security advisor in ROLSIG to

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



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	universal suffrage elections.	provide de-politized polling centre threat assessments. Letter to MoIS to initiate electoral security and reestablish SESTF.
Security	Risk that the delayed establishment of a Somali Electoral Security Task Force, comprising all security actors including from FGS and FMS, does not allow the NIEC to roll out in a timely manner the voter registration exercise. The lack of an integrated electoral security task force would further hinder a coordinated and harmonized security approach to secure the voter registration.	IESG working closely with AMISOM, NIEC and representatives of MoIS to urge Somali actors to establish asap the Somali Electoral Security Task Force.
Operational	Risk that the complexity of conducting operations in Somalia would affect sound programme implementation, supervision, monitoring and evaluation.	The JP for electoral support is designed to provide tailored international capacity development to the NIEC, with international advisors in specific electoral roles.
Political	Risk that the electoral regulatory framework would not be developed in time affecting progress towards universal elections.	The JP for electoral support is designed to provide tailored international advisers one electoral systems, guiding the counterparts throughout entire drafting process of the Law.
Security	Security conditions adversely impact the frequency with which UN advisers can work closely with government partners and other stakeholders.	UN to use alternative means such as videoconferencing. The Joint Programme is working with other actors, including agencies, programmes and the Mission/DSS to find the best way for UN electoral advisors to work together with government partners.
Financial	Long-term sustainability of electoral processes in Somalia could become an issue if the national electoral management bodies (NIEC) does not receive sufficient funding through the government budget and is dependent on international funding.	The Joint Programme works together with the NIEC, donor partners and other stakeholders to include an adequate budget for the NIEC in the Government's annual budget. The Joint Programme is extended until 31 December 2019 for the current priorities (reference to IESG resource mobilization paper shared



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		<p>prior to PWG/1).</p> <p>An electoral Needs Assessment Mission (NAM) was conducted that discussed with national and international partners to define the needs for an electoral capacity development framework towards universal elections by 2020.</p> <p>The FGS provided the NIEC a budget in 2019 for its staffing costs and some regular expenses.</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 future universal elections.</p> <p>Within the guidance of the Government and federal institutions, project supports consultative forums with the public, and works with media to ensure adequate information sharing and transparency on the process.</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, project supports consultative forums with the public, and works with media to ensure adequate information sharing and transparency on the process. IESG works with other sections of the UN to enhance also the capacity of any potentially affected stakeholders, in particular marginalized groups, to participation and claim their rights.</p>
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 law and to enhance MPs knowledge on the electoral law and meet their obligations to the



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		people.
Inclusive Politics	Risk that rights-holders do not have the capacity to claim their rights.	The UN strategy on future universal suffrage elections looks into rights-holders and their capacity 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, gender plans and these are considered through all project activities. For example, trainings on “Gender Responsive Elections”. There is collaboration amongst UN gender experts and focal persons from the Joint Programme for Electoral Support, the UNSOM/UNDP Rule of Law & Security Institutions Group (ROLSIG), the UN Resident Coordination Office (RCO) and UNDP CO on gender concerns.



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ANNEX 2. MONITORING AND OVERSIGHT ACTIVITIES <list here the monitoring and oversight activities undertaken during reporting period. Precise and specific, the table should not exceed one page>

Monitoring Activity	Date	Description & Comments	Key Findings / Recommendations
Board meeting	20 April	Electoral	Meeting minutes Approval utilization of the 2018 left-over budget for NIEC voter registration data centre
Project DIM Audit	May 2019	Unqualified findings	Final report
IESG Field Missions	January-June	Field, donors in Nairobi	BTOR
Electoral information sharing meetings	January, February, April, June	Electoral updates to international partners	Presentations and Meeting minutes



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ANNEX 3. TRAINING DATA

#	Title of the Training	Location	Objectives	# of the Participants	# Male	# Female	Start Date	10
1	Procedures, Regulations and Codes of Conduct training	MIA- M10	To Build NIEC's capacity to better understand the relationships between the Electoral Laws, Regulations and Procedures and differentiate regulation and policies	14	10	4	12-Feb-19	12-Feb-19
2	Train the Facilitator	AMISOM VIP	To build NIEC staff facilitation skills	16	12	4	3-Mar-19	7-Mar-19
3	Strategic Communication	AMISOM VIP	To provided additional knowledge and better-quality skills that advanced individual capacity and as well as institutional strengthening To disseminate and convey public awareness messages through the social media. To selecting the best communication channels to convey electoral messages	11	8	2	12-Mar-19	14-Mar-19
4	Train the Facilitator Phase 2	AMISOM VIP	To build NIEC staff facilitation and training skills	12	10	2	6-Apr-19	10-Apr-19



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5	High-level workshop on building trust and electoral integrity in difficult electoral contexts.	AMISOM VIP	Building trust and electoral integrity in difficult electoral contexts.	20	14	6	22-Apr-19	23-Apr-19
Total:				73	62	18		



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Annex: Visual materials – IESG electoral assistance to NIEC (Jan-Jun 2019)

Banners – including donor logos

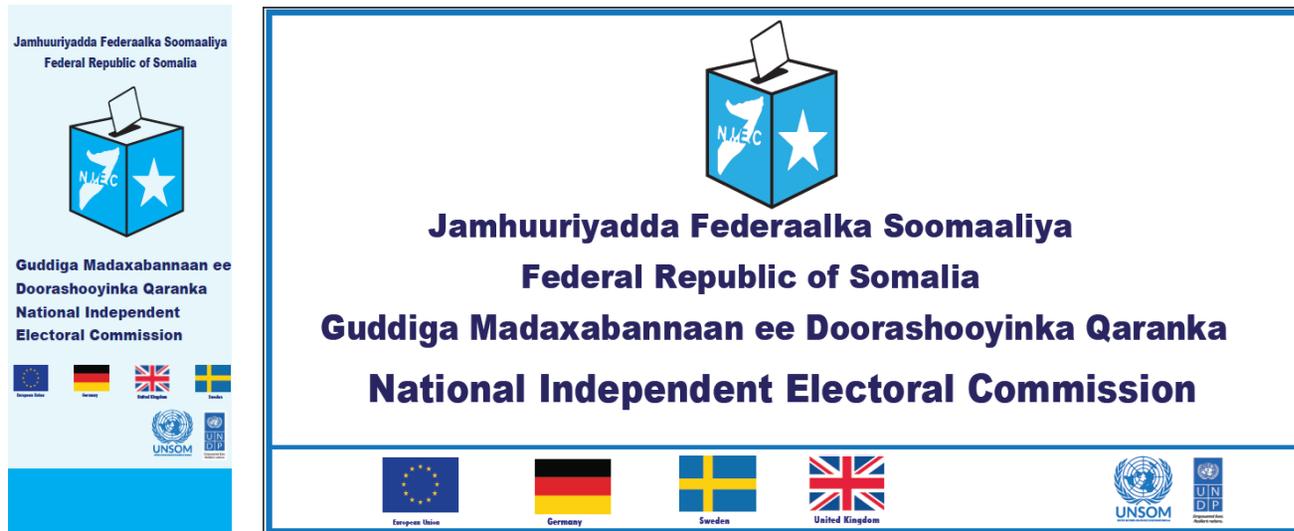


Figure 1-2: UNDP/UNSOM IESG banners for NIEC activities, with donor logos

Videos (various NIEC activities):

- <https://www.facebook.com/NIECSomalia/videos/2006069692852380/>
- <https://www.facebook.com/NIECSomalia/videos/2310242362580920/>
- <https://www.facebook.com/NIECSomalia/videos/578364842654090/>
- <https://www.facebook.com/NIECSomalia/videos/493260377875289/>
- <https://www.facebook.com/NIECSomalia/videos/247675692779536/>
- <https://www.facebook.com/NIECSomalia/videos/2076805139069532/>
- <https://www.facebook.com/NIECSomalia/videos/549936065492867/>



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Pictures



Figure 2: NIEC-IESG monthly electoral information sharing meeting. Mogadishu, 15 April 2019 (Photo credit: IESG)



Figure 3: Judge J. Krieger briefed NIEC on building trust and electoral integrity in difficult electoral contexts. Mogadishu, 22-23 April 2019. (Photo credit: NIEC)



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Figure 4: Conduct of BRIDGE training of the master trainers Mogadishu, 6-10 March, 22-23 April 2019 (Photo credit: IESG)



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Figure 5: NIEC consultations with civil society organizations on voter education regulations, Mogadishu, 25-26 May. (Photo credit: NIEC)



Figure 6: NIEC Chairperson with the senior South-West State minister Baidoa, 24 April 2019 (Photo credit: NIEC)



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Figure 7: NIEC awarding certificate to a newly elected MP Baidoa, 24 April 2019 (Photo credit: NIEC)



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Figure 8: NIEC team in a meeting with the Prime Minister on 2020 elections. Mogadishu, 28 February 2019 (Photo credit: NIEC)



Figure 9: NIEC Chairperson, Halima Ismail Ibrahim, chaired the session on Electoral Complaints & Appeals related to Gender Equality Jordan, 5 February 2019 (Photo credit: NIEC)



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Figure 10: Workshop to increase women's participation in electoral process. Baidoa, 20 January 2019 (Photo credit: NIEC)



Figure 11: Youth in a seminar on Voter Education organized by NIEC. Mogadishu, 12-13 February 2019. (Photo credit: NIEC)