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TUNISIA ELECTORAL ASSISTANCE PROJECT (TEAP) PROJECT REPORT No. 14 1 April to 30 June 2020



The cover page for TEAP's "Compendium on Electoral Crimes" which examines penal prosecution of electoral crimes

This project is co-funded by the European Union, Italy and Switzerland



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1. PROJECT SUMMARY

Project title:	Tunisia Electoral Assistance Project (TEAP)
Atlas project ID:	00088815
Project duration:	1 July 2015 to 31 December 2020
Executive agency:	UNDP Tunisia
Total Budget:	US\$ 8,152,000
Contribution from UNDP resources:	US\$ 388,065
Contribution from Switzerland:	US\$ 3,523,691
Contribution from European Union	US\$ 2,202,862
Contribution from Germany:	US\$ 568,828 (€ 500,000)
Contribution from Italy	US\$ 591,012 (€ 500,000)
Contribution from the United Kingdom	US\$ 337,897 (£ 260.519)
UNDAF Outcome(s)	Outcome 2: Democratic Governance: Political and civil administrative institutions are fully operational and respect the universal principles of human rights, democracy and gender equality.
Expected CPAP Output:	Output 1.2.1: The technical capacities of the Electoral Management Body (EMB) are reinforced.
Expected Project Outcome:	Reinforce democratic principles and institutions, through long-term capacity development of electoral authorities and implementation of reforms, in order to increase political participation of all citizens in credible electoral processes.
Date of report:	17 July 2020
UNDP contact person:	Riccardo Barranca Chief Technical Advisor riccardo.barranca@undp.org

UNDP's Tunisia Electoral Assistance Project (TEAP) builds on the experience and work of UNDP's previous project "Support to the Electoral Process in Tunisia" (SEPT) established in 2011 at the request of the Tunisian interim government, following the popular uprising and the departure of former president Ben Ali. TEAP seeks to capitalize on the good conduct of the legislative and presidential elections in 2014 in order to reinforce the capacities of relevant electoral authorities, in particular the High Independent Electoral Authority (French acronym: ISIE), through a long-term capacity building programme, in line with the electoral cycle approach.

Aligned with UNDP's Strategic Plan, with national priorities reflected in the Tunisian UN Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF), with UNDP Country Programme Document (CPD) and the Country Programme Action Plan's (CPAP) objectives, TEAP seeks to reinforce democratic principles in order to build trust in elected institutions by increasing political participation in credible electoral processes. Accordingly, TEAP project document is formulated with the aim of achieving the following key outputs:

1. Increase institutional sustainability of electoral authorities through long-term capacity building
2. Strengthen the electoral authorities' abilities to conduct credible electoral events.

To ensure that support from the international community is provided in an effective, consistent and coordinated manner, and in line with global development effectiveness principles, UNDP TEAP is using a multi-donor basket fund modality. The estimated budget for TEAP is US\$ 8,152,000 to address technical assistance requirements for the electoral cycles within the 2015-2020 timeframe.

2. LIST OF ACRONYMS

ARP	Assembly of the Representatives of the People
AWP	Annual Work Plan
Covid-19	Infectious disease caused by a newly discovered coronavirus
CPAP	Country Programme Action Plan
CSM	<i>Conseil Supérieur de la Magistrature</i> (High Judicial Council)
EDR	Electoral Dispute Resolution
EMB	Electoral Management Body
ERP	Enterprise Resource Planning
HAICA	<i>Haute Autorité Indépendante de la Communication Audiovisuelle</i> (High Independent Authority of the Audio-visual Communication)
ICT	Information and Communications Technology
IDEA	International Institute for Democracy and Electoral Assistance
IFES	International Foundation for Electoral Systems
ISIE	<i>Instance Supérieure Indépendante pour les Élections</i> (High Independent Authority for Elections)
JORT	<i>Journal officiel de la République Tunisienne</i> (Official Journal of the Republic of Tunisia)
OCV	Out-of-country voting
OdP	<i>Osservatorio di Pavia</i> (European media research and training institute based in Italy)
OHCHR	UN Office of the High Commissioner on Human Rights
PV	<i>Procès-verbal</i> (official record)
SEPT	Support to the Electoral Process in Tunisia
SOP	Standard Operating Procedures
TEAP	Tunisia Electoral Assistance Project (also called the Project)
ToR	Terms of Reference
UN	United Nations
UNDAF	United Nations Development Action Framework
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme

3. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

During the second quarter of 2020, within the context of general lockdown to curb the spread of Covid-19 disease, TEAP increased priority for development of election-related knowledge products which address specific and specialized knowledge gaps. Similarly, it explored, and initiated implementation of distant trainings addressing electoral stakeholders.

Towards the end of the quarter, Tunisian authorities gradually relaxed and then ended lockdown measures, allowing resumption of activities, including a scheduled resumption of municipal by-elections in early July and end of August 2020.

4. GENERAL CONTEXT

1. Lifting of Covid-19 Lockdown Measures

During the period from 4 May to 14 June, Tunisian authorities implemented a gradual, three-phased lifting of lockdown measures and on 8 June, the President of the Republic, Kais Saied, decided to end the night curfew imposed since 18 March 2020.

2. Resumption of Legal Timelines

On 15 May, a Government Decree determined that the legal timeframes will be resumed as of 15 June 2020. Legal timeframes, including electoral timelines, were suspended based on a Decree-Law issued on 17 April 2020.

5. ELECTORAL CONTEXT

1. An Electoral Health Protocol to Conduct Elections in the Context of Covid-19

In partnership with the Ministry of Health, the High Independent Authority for Elections (French acronym: ISIE) adopted in June a health protocol in order to guarantee the safety of its staff, candidates and voters during elections held following the spread of Covid-19.

2. By-elections for the Municipalities of Jebeniana and Hassi El Ferid

On 17 June, ISIE announced the resumption of the municipal by-elections for the municipalities of Jebeniana (Sfax) and Hassi El Ferid (Kasserine) after their suspension due to the Covid-19 pandemic announced on 14 March 2020. Polling day in those municipalities was set for 5 July 2020 (security officials and the military were scheduled to vote on 4 July). The electoral campaign kicked off on 21 June.

3. Additional Municipal By-elections scheduled for 29 and 30 August 2020

In June, ISIE announced the holding of municipal by-elections in seven municipalities on 29 and 30 August. Candidate nominations opened from 25 June to last until 2 July.

4. A Report on Undue Influence Over Electoral Campaigns

On 11 June, the political party Tahya Tounes called on the Public Prosecutor to examine the Atlantic Council report entitled "Operation Carthage ". According to the report, a digital campaign was launched on social media during the 2019 elections seeking to influence the Tunisian public opinion and voters.

5. Regulation on Remote Participation of ISIE Board Members

On 18 June 2020, ISIE issued a regulation to allow for remote participation of Board members in Board meetings, including the approval of preliminary results for municipal by-elections.

6. Retraction of Draft Laws

On 3 June 2020, the government retracted 16 draft laws it has submitted earlier to the Parliament, including the draft law related to the establishment of the new Audio-visual Authority and the draft law on district delimitation and number of seats.

6. PROJECT RESULTS AND ACHIEVEMENTS

During the reporting period, TEAP gave priority for the development of elections-related knowledge product, in addition to the conception and implementation of distant learning trainings for electoral stakeholders. TEAP also continued to assume its role of technical assistance for electoral institutions.

Results for Output 1: Increase institutional sustainability of electoral authorities through long-term capacity building

Result 1: Institutional structure and policies in place for sustainable electoral authorities

Platform for News Factchecking

To expand and facilitate the use of the platform, TEAP developed a user guide and delivered two additional trainings for journalists on the use of the platform, raising the number of trained journalists to 33 so far. In addition, TEAP provided training for the technical staff of the High Independent Authority of the Audio-visual Communication (French acronym: HAICA) to facilitate the maintenance and the smooth running of the platform.

The Project also prepared a confidentiality charter to protect personal data for monitored social media accounts during the process of tracking and responding to fake news.

Platform on Monitoring Campaign Finance

During the reporting period, TEAP shared consolidated feedback of the Project's specialists and the Court of Auditors with the UNDP-contracted developer. The first module on data exchange with stakeholders continued to be developed during the reporting period. The specifications of the third module on "Case Management for Campaign Finance Disputes" and "Jurisdictional Process for the Control of the Financing of Electoral Campaigns" were prepared by TEAP and reviewed by the Court of Auditors. The validation of the specifications of the third module is scheduled during July. The second module which generates the reports on campaign financing has been almost finalised and is being used by the Court of Auditors.

Mailing System for ISIE

Following TEAP's deployment of a mailing solution for ISIE, TEAP delivered related security equipment and a server to the independent electoral administration, in addition to software licenses. During the week of 22 June, TEAP held a specialized training course on the new system for three members of ISIE's ICT department.

Result 2: Enhanced electoral authorities strategic planning capacity

The Project's training advisor participated in a series of meetings to discuss technical input for a new strategic plan for ISIE to cover the new electoral cycle 2020-2024. TEAP's advisor also shared with ISIE a memo outlining potential focus areas to the plan.

Result 3: On-going stakeholder engagement by electoral authorities encouraged

Support for Visual Identity of HAICA's Report

TEAP supported HAICA in the graphic layout of its final report on the media monitoring of the 2019 legislative elections, both in French and Arabic. Back in 2019, the Project provided substantial support to the development of this report, through the UNDP contractor "Osservatorio di Pavia".

A Statistical Study on the Political Participation of Youth and Women in Tunisian Elections

The Project finalized the contracting of an expert to examine the political participation of youth and women in all general Tunisian elections since 2011. The empirical-based study is scheduled to be finalized by the end of 2020.

Result 4: Expand technical capacities of staff for general professional development

Training on Electoral Disputes on Campaign Finance Before the Court of Auditors

In partnership with the Tunisian Bar Association (French acronym: ONAT), the Project planned and organized a series of three trainings to inform lawyers on the mandate of the Court of Accounts monitoring of campaign finance and examine in-depth the electoral disputes related to campaign finance held before the Court.

During the reporting period, TEAP drafted and distributed a user guide to facilitate the participants understanding of Zoom, the software used to deliver this online training.

On 26 June, the Project held the first training session with the remote participation of 32 lawyers (including 18 female lawyers). The training included both theoretical and practical dimensions and is the first to be held on this topic for lawyers.

Manual on Using State Resources for Electoral Purposes

The Project concluded four background reports to facilitate the drafting of relevant chapters of its "Manual on Using State Resources for Electoral Purposes": a report on abuse of state resources as reflected in (1) court decisions, (2) the reports of ISIE controllers on campaign violations, (3) official reports of ISIE, HAICA, the Court of Auditors and the Anti-corruption Authority, and (4) local and international observer reports.

Additionally, the outline of the manual was finalized, and based on that, five subject-matter experts were identified, four through TEAP and a fifth through the Venice Commission of the Council of Europe. Two of TEAP's experts finalized their contribution on the basis for providing financial estimates for abused state resources.

Accounting Standards for Electoral Campaigns

The first draft of the knowledge-based product "Accounting standards for electoral campaigns" was finalized and shared with two peer-reviewers for validation and possible suggestions for enrichment.

Result 5: Electoral legal framework in line with international standards and contain technical provisions that enable credible electoral processes to be conducted

A Compendium of Articles on Electoral Jurisprudence of the Administrative Tribunal

The first drafts of seven articles of the "Compendium on Electoral Jurisprudence of the Administrative Tribunal" were concluded during the reporting period. The total number of articles is

now raised to 13 compared with ten planned earlier. The remaining five articles will be finalized during the next quarter.

Assessment of the Legal Framework for Electoral Campaigns

The multi-disciplinary team of experts discussed the first paper of 11 composing the “Compendium on the Legal Framework for Electoral Campaigns”.

A Compendium on Electoral Crimes

Following the finalisation of the “Compendium on Electoral Crimes” during the previous quarter (see page 9 TEAP Q1 2020), TEAP widely shared electronic versions of this Compendium. Following the lift of lockdown measures, the Project finalized in June the physical printing. Hard copies will be shared with the electoral authorities, judicial institutions and law schools.

Memoranda on Electoral Topics

The Project shared with ISIE legal opinions on the impact of the freezing of legal timelines on election timelines, and a note on the legal provisions related to the retirement of ISIE members. Additionally, TEAP reviewed ISIE-drafted electoral calendars for the resumed municipal by-elections, to comment on their conformity with the legal provisions and the legal timelines embedded in the electoral law.

Table on indicators, baselines, 2020 targets and results for Output 1:

Indicators	2019 Baseline	2020 Target	Result
1.1 Extent to which EMB institutional structure and internal regulations are improved	<p>1.1.1 Absence, within ISIE and HAICA, of a comprehensive legal framework on financial and budget management</p> <p>1.1.2 Existence of an ISIE information system, which does not include tools for collaborative work and data sharing.</p> <p>1.1.3 Absence of a case-management system at the Court of Auditors, and absence of tools for automatic exchange of electoral data with</p>	<p>1.1.1. An updated regulatory framework of ISIE and HAICA which details the rules of budgetary management according to the new organic laws related to independent constitutional bodies and the new organic budget law.</p> <p>1.1.2 The seven Modules of the ISIE web portal and the ISIE mailing system are operational.</p> <p>1.1.3 At the Court of Accounts, a system for supervision of campaign finance and case-management is in place.</p>	<p>In Progress</p> <p>1.1.1 The Project continues to finalize (1) a manual on budget management for constitutional entities, and (2) an update to the Project’s earlier two publications on financial independence for ISIE and HAICA.</p> <p>1.1.2 The Exchange solution for the ISIE mailing system was installed; ISIE staff were trained on the administration of this solution and the Project delivered needed security hardware and software licenses for ISIE. Seven components of the ISIE web portal were developed; other modules are in-progress.</p> <p>1.1.3 One module was developed and deployed. The second module is under development. The</p>

Indicators	2019 Baseline	2020 Target	Result
	stakeholders (ISIE, Central Bank and others) during the electoral process.		specifications for the third module were finalized.
1.4 Existence of a public outreach strategy	1.4 Training manuals and studies were developed and published during the 2019 legislative and presidential elections.	1.4 At least two (2) manuals and four (4) studies on electoral themes are designed and updated. At least five exchange workshops and 20 targeted training courses are organized in which 120 front-line electoral staff, 100 media editors and journalists, 50 lawyers, and 60 magistrates are directly trained and/or targeted.	In Progress 1.4 The Project concluded a training session for 40 lawyers on dispute resolution before the Court of Auditors. The Project also finalized contracting for teams of experts to work on group studies on the subjects of: (1) political participation of the youth (2) the participation of youth in elections, (3) a manual on using state resources for electoral purposes.
1.5 Existence of a local electoral framework that respects international standards and good practices.	1.5. An existing legal framework for the 2018 municipal elections and the 2019 legislative and presidential elections.	1.5. Guidance notes, legal analyses, and recommendations on possible amendments to the EMB and electoral laws are shared with the electoral authorities. Analyses of the legal framework on electoral crimes and on the financing of electoral campaigns are shared with ISIE and the competent parliamentary committee.	In Progress 1.5 The Project progressed in drafting of the following knowledge tools (1) assessment of the legal framework for electoral campaigns, (2) A compendium on electoral crimes (finalized) and (3) a compendium on electoral jurisprudence of the Administrative Tribunal.

7. MONITORING AND EVALUATION

Monitoring

The Project adheres to a multi-level review of its key documents, including consultations with the Project's stakeholders and review, quality assurance and approval by UNDP Tunisia Country Office. The Project maintains a regular review of its annual monitoring and evaluation targets. See the table above for an update on the indicators, baselines, and results for the activities during the reporting period. Also see Section (7) below on "Evidence".

UNDP finalized the selection of an international consultant for the final evaluation of TEAP, and the consultant started the assessment in June.

Resource mobilization

Following the signature of the Cost Sharing Agreement between UNDP and the Italian Technical Cooperation, the Project received the financial contribution of € 200,000 (US\$ 218,341).

TEAP and UNDP Country Office finalized the drafting of the first version of a new project document and shared with the main financial partners of the Project for consideration and feedback.

Coordination

To avoid duplications in technical assistance, the Project takes part in regular coordination meetings with the international organizations working in Tunisia in the field of elections and democratic support, such as IFES, International IDEA, Democracy Reporting International (DRI), National Democratic Institute (NDI), International Republican Institute (IRI), Democracy International (DI) and the Carter Centre.

8. EVIDENCE

No.	Type	Title	Date	Author	Hyperlink
1	Regulations	Regulation on Distant Participation for ISIE Board Members in Board Meetings	18 June 2020	ISIE	http://www.isie.tn/wp-content/uploads/2020/06/%D9%82%D8%B1%D8%A7%D9%84%D9%87%D9%8A%D8%A6%D8%A9-%D8%A7%D9%84%D8%B9%D9%84%D9%8A%D8%A7-%D8%A7%D9%84%D9%85%D8%B3%D8%AA%D9%82%D9%84%D8%A9-%D9%84%D9%84%D8%A7%D9%86%D8%AA%D8%AE%D8%A7%D8%A8%D8%A7%D8%AA-%D8%B9%D8%AF%D8%AF-10-%D9%84%D8%B3%D9%86%D8%A9-2020.pdf
2	Decision	Decision on Resumption of Municipal By-elections in Two Municipalities	19 June 2020	ISIE	http://www.isie.tn/wp-content/uploads/2020/06/%D9%82%D8%B1%D8%A7%D9%84%D9%87%D9%8A%D8%A6%D8%A9-%D8%B9%D8%AF%D8%AF-11-%D9%84%D8%B3%D9%86%D8%A9-2020.pdf
3	Compendium	Compendium on Electoral Crimes	2020	UNDP TEAP	Now available in hard copy, in addition to the soft copies published during the first quarter.

9. FINANCIAL REPORT

1. Financial summary

TEAP 2020 annual work plan (AWP) for a total amount of US\$ 1,352,000 was approved by the Steering Committee of the Project during the meeting held on 21 January 2020. Following the health crisis linked to Covid-19, a revised AWP was developed to take into account the suspension of the face-to-face activities; the revised AWP counts for a total budget of US\$ 1,015,000. By 30 June 2020, TEAP implemented actions worth of US\$ 386,928 corresponding to 38% of the revised 2020 AWP (see Table 1), and additional expenses for US\$ 74,732 are already committed.

A total budget of US\$ 8.15 million is required for implementing TEAP from July 2015 to December 2020. By June 2020, an overall amount of US\$ 7,612,355 was received from Switzerland, European Union, Germany, Italy, United Kingdom and UNDP; this corresponds to 93% of the needed budget to implement the Project in accordance with the project document. From 1 July 2015 to 30 June 2020, a careful implementation of US\$ 6,425,816 was conducted, corresponding to 84% of the received contribution and 79% of the total project's budget (see Table 2).

2. Budget implementation

Table 1: Budget implementation from January to June 2020:

Outputs	Approved 2019 budget/AWP	Available resources	Extra resources to be planned	Expenses January-June 2020		Budget balance of approved budget as of 30 June 2020	
				Amount	%	Amount	%
Output 1	1 015 000			386 928	38%	628 072	62%
Output 2	0			0		0	
TOTAL	1 015 000	1 553 021		386 928	38%	628 072	62%

3. Financial overview

Table 2: Financial

Donors	Total estimated budget from July 2015 to Dec 2020	Contributions committed	Received contributions	Expenses July - Dec 2015	Expenses Jan - Dec 2016	Expenses Jan - Dec 2017	Expenses Jan - Dec 2018	Expenses Jan - Dec 2019	Expenses Jan-June 2020	Total Expenses from July 2015 to June 2020		Balance of received contributions as of 30 June 2020	
				Amount	Amount	Amount	Amount	Amount	Amount	Amount	%	Amount	%
Germany		568 828	568 828			568 828				568 828	100%	0	0%
Italy		591 012	591 012				372 671			372 671	63%	218 341	37%
Switzerland		3 523 691	3 523 691	163 707	868 223	770 042	666 710	1 002 625	47 785*	3 519 092	99.9%	4 599**	0.1%
United Kingdom		337 897	337 897		183 022	154 875				337 897	100%	0	0%
UNDP		388 065	388 065	336 767			39 794		1 095	377 656	97%	10 409	3%
European Union		2 202 862	2 202 862					911 624	338 048	1 249 672	57%	953 190	43%
TOTAL	8 152 000	7 612 355	7 612 355	500 474	1 051 245	1 493 745	1 079 175	1 914 249	386 928	6 425 816	84%	1 186 539	16%

* These expenses are related to activities carried out in 2019.

** This amount has already been returned to Swiss Cooperation.

Note: All expenditure figures presented in this report are provisional. As per the cost-sharing agreement, UNDP Headquarters provides donors with an annual certified financial statement on 30 June of every year.

10. SIGNATURE

For the executing partner: N/A

Name: N/A

Titre: N/A

Signature:

Date:

For UNDP:

Name: Alissar Chaker

Titre: Deputy Resident Representative

Signature:



Date: 24-Jul-2020