



Empowered lives.
Resilient nations.

TUNISIA ELECTORAL ASSISTANCE PROJECT (TEAP) PROJECT REPORT No. 15 1 July to 30 September 2020



Hammamet, 25 September: TEAP ICT Specialist Discussing Monitoring of Electoral Campaign on Social Networks during TEAP's workshop of experts addressing possible reforms for the framework of electoral campaign

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

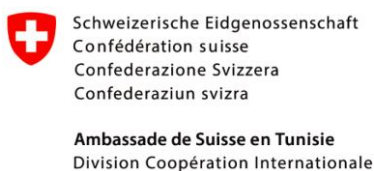


TABLE OF CONTENTS

Table of Contents	2
1. Project Summary.....	3
2. List of Acronyms	4
3. Executive Summary.....	5
4. General and Electoral Context	5
5. Project Results and Achievements	6
Results for Output 1: Increase institutional sustainability of electoral authorities through long-term capacity building ...	6
Result 1: Institutional structure and policies in place for sustainable electoral authorities	6
Result 2: Enhanced electoral authorities strategic planning capacity	7
Result 3: On-going stakeholder engagement by electoral authorities encouraged	7
Result 4: Expand technical capacities of staff for general professional development.....	7
Result 5: Electoral legal framework in line with international standards and contain technical provisions that enable credible electoral processes to be conducted	8
6. Monitoring and Evaluation	10
7. Evidence.....	10
8. Financial Report	11
1. Financial summary	11
2. Budget implementation	11
3. Financial overview	11
9. Signature	12

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:	12 October 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
CPAP	Country Programme Action Plan
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)
ONAT	Tunisian Bar Association
PV	<i>Procès-verbal</i> (official record)
SEPT	Support to the Electoral Process in Tunisia
SOP	Standard Operating Procedures
TAP	Tunis Afrique Presse (Tunisian press agency)
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 third quarter of 2020, the High Independent Electoral Authority (French acronym: ISIE) implemented two rounds of municipal by-elections, on 5 July and 30 August 2020. Meanwhile, a position at its Board of Commissioners became vacant following the confirmation of the new government in Tunisia.

UNDP's Tunisia Electoral Assistance Project (TEAP) advanced on drafting of a number of knowledge tools on electoral matters, delivered online and on-site trainings for electoral stakeholders, and continued to develop key institutional Information and Communications Technology (ICT) platforms for the benefit of electoral authorities.

4. GENERAL AND ELECTORAL CONTEXT

1. *Approval of a New Government*

On 15 July, the Government of Ilyes Fakhfakh resigned, thus launching a replacement track which may have ended with early Parliamentary elections. However, on 2 September, the Parliament approved the government of the President-proposed Prime Minister, Hichem Mechichi, with 134 votes in favour and 67 against.

The new government includes Ms Hasna Ben Slimane who was appointed as the Minister in Charge of Civil Service. This appointment resulted in a vacancy at the Board of the High Independent Authority for Elections (ISIE). Prior to her ministerial appointment, Ms Ben Slimane was the only female member of the Board of ISIE.

2. *Reform of the Electoral System*

A number of Parliamentary groups announced separately that the reform of the electoral law, and/or the electoral system, is part of their priorities for the new Parliamentary year. The statements were separately announced by Ennahdha, Qalb Tounes, Al Karamah Coalition and the Democratic Stream (Attayar).

3. *Municipal by-elections*

- *By-elections for the Municipalities of Jbeniana and Hassi Frid on 5 July 2020:*

On 5 July, ISIE conducted 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. The average voter turnout was 25.25%.

- *By-elections for Six Municipalities on 30 August 2020:*

On 30 August, ISIE conducted elections in 6 municipalities: Kesra, El-Marja, Korba, Foussana, Sahline, and Zaouiet Kantech. Elections in a seventh municipality, Chebika, were suspended following a judicial stay of execution from the Administrative Tribunal.

These elections represent the sixth wave of municipal by-elections since the concurrent municipal elections of 6 May 2018. The average turnout of these municipal by-elections was 23.44% less than the turnout for the concurrent municipal elections of 2018 (35.6%), but in line with the average turnout for the earlier five waves of municipal by-elections (overall average: 21.51%). Only one political party ran for the elections, the remaining candidate lists were independent.

- ***Scheduled Municipal By-Elections for Kondar to be held on 20 December 2020:***

On 30 September, ISIE announced it will conduct elections for the municipality of Kondar (governorate of Sousse) on 19 and 20 December 2020. A week later, ISIE also announced it will conduct elections on the same dates for the municipality of Bouzayen (Sidi Bouzid).

ISIE attributes the frequent by-elections to the Law on Local Authorities, which allows a municipal council to be dissolved if a simple majority of its members concurrently resigns.

5. PROJECT RESULTS AND ACHIEVEMENTS

During the reporting period, TEAP gave priority for the development of elections-related knowledge products, in addition to the conception and implementation of online platforms to facilitate and systemize institutional roles of electoral stakeholders. It 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 Fact-checking

On 24 September, TEAP presented the current version of the fact-checking platform to a group of official stakeholders and media representative, including from the High Independent Authority of the Audio-visual Communication (HAICA), the Tunisian state broadcasting organization, the Tunisian press agency Tunis Afrique Presse (TAP) and others. Official and private media are part of the targeted users for this collaborative platform.

Platform on Monitoring Campaign Finance

Revision and validation of the functional specifications of the first module of the platform, related to data exchange with stakeholders continued to be developed during the reporting period.

TEAP organized stakeholder meetings to discuss and identify the functional needs of Module Three on "Case Management for Campaign Finance Disputes". Accordingly, the project finalized a new version of technical and functional specification of this module.

Strengthening the Data Centre of ISIE

TEAP is finalizing the Terms of Reference (ToRs) for the acquisition of ICT equipment (servers, switcher, and other equipment) for the benefit of the data centre of ISIE. The procurement procedure has been launched during this quarter while delivery of equipment is expected in the next quarter.

Knowledge Products Related to Institutional Sustainability

- ***Budget Management for ISIE and HAICA***

TEAP finalized the first draft of a practitioner guide for implementing budgets for the benefit of ISIE and HAICA. The guide aims at identifying procedures and good practices for implementing budgets to avoid budget mismanagement. During this quarter, the first draft of this guide was also peer reviewed, and the project is currently finalizing an updated draft based on the comments received.

- **Update of Financial Independence of Constitutional Entities**

Following the adoption of the new organic law on budget, the law on constitutional entities, and the law on the Court of Accounts, TEAP finalized the planned update of the publications on the financial independence of Constitutional Entities (with focus on ISIE and HAICA) originally published in July 2017. This new publication explores in depth the implications of financial independence and suggests a course of action to fill gaps in the existing legal and regulatory frameworks related to financial independence.



Result 2: Enhanced electoral authorities strategic planning capacity

TEAP participated in a series of meetings to discuss technical input for a new strategic plan for ISIE to cover the years 2020-2024: during this quarter, the project's training advisor prepared and shared with ISIE concept note on the process of drafting the new strategic plan.

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

Knowledge Products Related to Stakeholder Engagement

- **Impact of Increased Digitisation on the Political Participation of the Youth**

TEAP finalized a first draft of a study to examine the impact of increasing digitization of political communication on the political participation of young people and also to examine the impact of political advertising on the orientation of public opinion during electoral periods. The resulting publication will be shared with electoral authorities to inform their communication with the youth on political participation.

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), TEAP planned and organized the second and third series of scheduled training workshops to inform lawyers on the mandate of the Court of Accounts monitoring of campaign financing and in-depth examine the electoral disputes related to campaign finance held before the Court.

The second training was held online on 3 July and was attended by 33 lawyers. The training was delivered by two judges from the Court of Accounts and involved practical case studies and relevant case law.

The third training was held in person on 10 July and was attended by the same group of targeted lawyers. The first training was held in the earlier quarter.

Manual on Using State Resources for Electoral Purposes

In partnership with the Venice Commission of the Council of Europe, TEAP is advancing on the drafting of a manual on the abuse of state resources for electoral purposes. The Venice Commission submitted two articles which contribute to this publication, while TEAP finalized one article in addition to four background reports and is currently working on two more articles. This publication may be presented in the format of a compendium of articles on abuse of state resources for electoral purposes.

Accounting Standards for Electoral Campaigns

Following the finalization of a first draft of the accounting standards, TEAP is preparing for two discussion workshops with target stakeholders to present the proposed standards and receive their feedback. The two workshops are planned to be held in the next quarter.

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

Knowledge Products Related to the Electoral Legal Framework

- Assessment of the Legal Framework for Electoral Campaigns

On 25-27 September, TEAP organized an exchange workshop for 14 multi-disciplinary team of experts to assess the current legal framework for electoral campaigns. The workshop identified a number of recommendations for improvement of the campaign framework. The discussions and recommendations will be consolidated in a report to be presented to electoral stakeholders.



- A Compendium on Political Advertisement During Elections

A second product building on the above-mentioned assessment is a compendium on political advertisement during electoral campaigns, which will include four articles, all of which were finalized as drafts during this quarter and are currently under review.

- A Compendium of Articles on Electoral Jurisprudence of the Administrative Tribunal

All thirteen articles planned for this compendium have been finalized. A final review is ongoing, and the compendium is scheduled to be published during the next quarter. The compendium aims at presenting the trends of court jurisprudence on specialised electoral matters.

- A Compendium of Articles on Electoral Jurisprudence of the Court of Accounts

Similarly, TEAP is finalizing a compendium focused on the electoral jurisprudence of the Court of Accounts. It will include five articles: two were finalized during this quarter, one finalized earlier, and the final two are in progress.

Memoranda on Electoral Topics

TEAP shared with ISIE (a) a draft regulation on criteria for scheduling electoral calendars for municipal by-elections; (b) an updated Excel template for the setting of the electoral calendar; and (c) a legal opinion on the replacement procedures for revoked members of municipal councils. The project also shared with HAICA a legal opinion on a petition submitted to the Administrative Tribunal related to a HAICA penalty imposed on a media outlet for violation of the rules for electoral campaign.

A Compendium of Legal Provisions on Elections and Referenda

TEAP finalized an English translation and consolidation of the most relevant legal texts related to elections and referenda in Tunisia. The compendium will facilitate access to the Tunisian electoral legal framework by peer EMBs, electoral practitioners, international observers and other stakeholders.



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 stakeholders (ISIE, Central Bank and others) during the electoral process.</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>Achieved 1.1.1 TEAP finalized (1) a manual on budget management for constitutional entities, and (2) an update of the TEAP's earlier two publications on financial independence of ISIE and HAICA.</p> <p>Achieved 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>Partially Achieved 1.1.3 One module was developed and deployed. The second module is under development. The specifications for the third module have been finalized.</p>
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.	<p>Partially Achieved 1.4 TEAP concluded three trainings for 33 lawyers on dispute resolution before the Court of Auditors. The project also finalized (or is about to finalize) 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.</p>

Indicators	2019 Baseline	2020 Target	Result
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.	Partially Achieved 1.5 TEAP 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.

6. MONITORING AND EVALUATION

Monitoring

TEAP adheres to a multi-level review of its key documents, including consultations with the Project's stakeholders and review, 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 Eight below on "Evidence".

An international consultant concluded an advanced draft of the final evaluation of the project. TEAP supported the consultant in conducting the evaluation process from a distance (meetings, providing documents, information). The final version is expected in the next quarter.

The project also worked with the Country Office to prepare for a corporate general audit which is expected in the next quarter. TEAP was selected to be one of three audited projects in UNDP Tunisia.

Coordination

To avoid duplications in technical assistance, TEAP takes part in regular coordination meetings with the international organizations working 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.

7. EVIDENCE

No.	Type	Title	Date	Author	Hyperlink
1	Compendium	Collection of Legal Texts on Elections and Referenda (English Translation)	September 2020	TEAP for the benefit of ISIE	Available in electronic and hard copies.
2	Publication	Publication on the evaluation of the legal framework for budgets of constitutional entities	Updated second edition: September 2020	TEAP	Available in electronic and hard copies.

8. FINANCIAL REPORT

1. Financial summary

The project's 2020 annual work plan (AWP) for a total amount of US\$ 1,352,000 was approved by the Steering Committee of TEAP during the meeting held on 21 January 2020 at the UNDP Country Office. Following the health crisis linked to Covid-19, an updated AWP, to factor in the social distancing measures, was developed for a total budget of US\$ 1,015,000.

By 30 September 2020, TEAP implemented actions worth of US\$ 626,927 corresponding to 62% of the 2020 AWP (see Table 1), and additional expenses for US\$ 185,334 are already committed.

A total budget of US\$ 8.15 million is required for implementing TEAP from July 2015 to December 2020. By September 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 September 2020, a careful implementation of US\$ 6,665,815 was conducted, corresponding to 88% of the received contribution and 82% of the total project's budget (see Table 2).

2. Budget implementation

Table 1: Budget implementation from January to September 2020:

Outputs	Approved 2020 budget/AWP	Available resources	Extra resources to be planned	Expenses January-September 2020		Budget balance of approved budget as of 30 September 2020	
				Amount	%	Amount	%
Output 1	1 015 000			626 927	62%	388 073	38%
Output 2	0			0		0	
TOTAL	1 015 000	1 553 021		626 927	62%	388 073	38%

3. Financial overview

Table 2: Financial overview in US\$

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-Sept. 2020	Total Expenses from July 2015 to Sept. 2020		Balance of received contributions as of 30 Sept. 2020	
				Amount	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		1 753	378 314	97%	9 751	3%
European Union		2 202 862	2 202 862					911 624	577 389	1 489 013	68%	713 849	32%
TOTAL	8 152 000	7 612 355	7 612 355	500 474	1 051 245	1 493 745	1 079 175	1 914 249	626 927	6 665 815	88%	946 540	12%

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

** This amount has already been returned to the 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.

9. 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: 14-Oct-2020