

# **QUARTERLY PROGRESS REPORT**

**Date: September 1<sup>st</sup> to December 31<sup>st</sup> 2017**

**PROJECT TITLE: Strengthening the Electoral Cycle in the Solomon Islands**

**PROJECT NUMBER: 00103473**

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

## **PART 1: KEY RESULTS ACHIEVED IN THIS QUARTER**

*Strengthening the Electoral Cycle in the Solomon Islands Project Phase II (SECSIP II)* commenced its implementation on 1<sup>st</sup> July 2017 with a 3 year duration expected to end on 30 June 2020.

A project closure and inception workshop was held on 8 September 2017 to present a summary of achieved results, findings and recommendations of the independent evaluation conducted at the end of SECSIP I, and the on-going response actions to improve project implementation. This included the strengthening of the project structure with recruitment of Mr. Pisoth Ving in the capacity of Project Coordinator. The identified priorities for project support and the estimated budget for the initial six months were also proposed and discussed during this session attended by national and international stakeholders.

During the reporting period, a failure in the biometric voter registration (BVR) system led to a severe risk of loss of the voter registration database. It was fortuitous that SECSIP Senior BVR Expert was in-country at the time of the failure and was able to urgently conduct the successful recovery of the data and adopt immediate actions for risk mitigation. His findings and recommendations included the replacement of obsolete equipment, identification of priority features of the software to be upgraded and the proposal of a course of action to train core staff to have the appropriate technical skills to operate and maintain a BVR system. The project also supported SIEC in its collaboration with the MPGIS authorities by conducting the update of the electoral roll for Choiseul and Western Province. Accordingly, the Electoral Commission launched on 4 December 2017 the campaign for the update of the electoral roll in the referred provinces. SECSIP identified, engaged and deployed under a very strict timeline three consultants with solid experience in electoral biometric voter registration (BVR), who had been previously working with UNDP elections in Nepal, to provide BVR help desk services and data management and consolidation.

SIEC, SECSIP and UNDP were saddened by the unexpected passing away of the Acting Chief Electoral Officer Mr. Alphonsus Pero occurred on December 3rd 2017. This highlighted the urgent appointment of a Chief Executive Officer to lead the SIEC in the preparation and implementation of the upcoming electoral events. Acknowledgment was also received by national and international stakeholders attending the Project Board meeting session held on 11 December 2017. During this meeting, a joint presentation on the on-going preparation for the upcoming electoral events was facilitated by the SIEC Head of Operations and SECSIP CTA, and projected draft 2018 budget was discussed. The on-going strengthening of the project team coordination and the benefit of the renovated office space area will certainly contribute to project delivery and efficiency.

*Strengthening the Electoral Cycle in the Solomon Islands (SECSIP)*

**RESULTS RESOURCE FRAMEWORK QUARTERLY PROGRESS** (\*\*In some projects, Outputs in Project Documents are equivalent to Activity Results level in ATLAS)

ACTIVITY RESULTS (in ATLAS) (outputs for non-GEF projects; outcomes for GEF projects)	INDICATORS	BASELINE	ANNUAL TARGETS (Jul-Dec 2017)	OUTPUTS INDICATORS RESULTS	EVIDENCE (SOURCE, LINK)
<p><b>Output 1:</b> Sustainable and reliable voter registration system created to strengthen the inclusiveness and integrity of the electoral cycle</p> <p>1.1 Enhanced sustainability and inclusiveness of registration system</p> <p>Support for voter registry updating</p>	<p>1.1.1 Increased integrity and reliability of IT systems and BVR database</p> <p>Updated voter registry .</p>	<p>- BVR: Not reliable or protected.</p> <p>No back up of BVR database.</p> <p>BVR server in critical condition, unreliable.</p> <p>No security mechanisms or logs for changes to BVR database.</p> <p>Voter IDs not reliable (no security mechanism &amp; no collection of 2014 double registrants' cards.</p> <p>List not updated since 2014 elections</p>	<p>Provision of technical advice for the upgrading of the BVR database, including activating measures (minimum 1) to address immediate day-to-day maintenance of BVR equipment and software. Support to the BVR update at provincial level (minimum 2 provinces)</p>	<p><i>Progress Keys :</i></p> <p><b>On Track</b></p> <p><i>Report Results Achieved against Activity Results 1 Indicator(s):</i></p> <p><i>Extent to which SIEC developed a sustainable voter's roll and relevant sustainable mechanisms:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Implementation of immediate risk mitigating actions to secure the BVR data and in-depth technical analysis of the existing BVR system leading to the identification of upgrades to enhance the integrity of the system.</li> <li>• Enhanced technical capacities to conduct the provincial update of the voters' roll operations (in Western Province and Choiseul), supported by three BVR technicians, which included transfer of basic data entry skills to Assistant Registration Officers in Nepal and Choiseul.</li> <li>• Migration of the BVR database to ICT SU data centre to contribute to strengthen the integrity of the BVR system.</li> </ul>	<p>Email correspondence attached</p>

*Strengthening the Electoral Cycle in the Solomon Islands (SECSIP)*

				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Enhanced capabilities due to SECSIP procurement of BVR equipment as per SIEC approved specifications</li> <li>BVR kits deployed to 2 provinces (12 to Western Province and 4 to Choiseul).</li> </ul>	
<p>Output 2: Strengthened capacity of SIEC to fulfil its mandate more efficiently and effectively</p> <p>2.1 Enhanced capacity of the SIEC to manage the electoral cycle and the elections</p> <p>2.1.2 Increased SIEC capacity to manage BVR IT system and database</p> <p>2.2 Improved infrastructure for more efficient electoral management</p>	<p>Electoral authorities with improved administrative and human resources capacities to fulfil mandate</p> <p>2.1.1 Ability of SIEC to keep to the electoral calendar for key electoral milestones<sup>1</sup></p> <p>Number of IT students completing graduate programme for SIEC IT and able to maintain BVR system</p> <p>2.2.1 Quality of OSIEC office facilities and ability of staff to work</p>	<p>SECSIP I provided capacity building for SIEC since 2013. Only 6 of those persons remained at OSIEC at start SECSIP II</p> <p>-TBC Voter information started late. -No graduate program, OSIEC skeleton staff. 3 out of 8 positions empty - Credible, generally peaceful; inconsistent approaches in performance of functions <sup>2</sup></p> <p>No in-house capacity, limited pool of qualified IT outside SIEC, no grad program</p> <p>- Premises have health and safety risks -2 locations (data centre off site)</p>	<p>Training of staff for efficient management of SIEC website</p> <p>-Develop concept note for graduate programme</p> <p>- Assessment &amp; recommendations provided towards the streamline of SIEC procedures</p> <p>Concept note for graduate programme</p> <p>-Remodeling of office to comply with UNDP safety regulations -Approval of plan for construction of SIEC data centre on-site</p> <p>Enhanced BVR data entry skills for Area registration officers in two provinces.</p> <p>2.1 Assessment &amp; recommendations</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Enhanced capabilities due to SECSIP procurement of BVR equipment as per SIEC approved specifications</li> <li>BVR kits deployed to 2 provinces (12 to Western Province and 4 to Choiseul).</li> </ul> <p><b>Progress Keys:</b></p> <p><b>On Track</b></p> <p><i>Report Results Achieved against Activity Results 2 Indicator(s):</i></p> <p><i>Enhanced capacity of SIEC to manage an electoral cycle through the following actions:</i></p> <p>Output 2.1</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Development of a draft MoU establishing the framework for a graduate programme with the intention to train a pool of qualified staff on BVR management and operations to mitigate constraints of the current staff structure of SIEC.</li> <li>Completion and launching of upgraded website featuring new tools to insert and embed content (text, images, video and audio, and documents) enabling the efficient management of the website by all SIEC staff.</li> </ul>	<p>Screenshot of upgraded institutional website attached.</p>

<sup>1</sup> Other common milestones include training for polling officials, announcement of preliminary results, resolution of electoral disputes. These can be used as well assuming SECSIP II has a role in supporting the organization, planning, equipping or training needed to achieve these milestones. Even if SECSIP II does not play a direct role, its other support to the SEIC is to help create a strengthened institution that can meet the deadlines in the electoral calendar.

<sup>2</sup> Commonwealth observers report 2014. Pacific Islands Forum observer report 2014: *Need grooming and sustainable capacity development of SIEC permanent staff as well as contracted polling and count officials to ensure consistency in implementation of procedures for polling & post-polling periods. This would have increased efficiency and timelines of electoral processes which are also aspects of free and fair elections.*

*Strengthening the Electoral Cycle in the Solomon Islands (SECSIP)*

<p>Support for voter registry updating</p>	<p>efficiently in conditions  Trained electoral officials for voter registration</p>	<p>Last training 2014</p>	<p>provided towards the streamline of SIEC procedures and five (5) or more staff benefit from formative actions for the enhanced management of SIEC. Efforts to support BVR registration staff (i.e. AROs) particularly in the provinces (minimum 2)</p> <p>2.2 Support to the upgrade of OSIEC's physical infrastructure HQ and/or regions - measures (2) to address safety regulations and enhancement of BVR operations</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Completion of SIEC website management training benefiting all SIEC staff, SECSIP CTA and project coordinator (7 people in total) to ensure regular updates of the website so it serves as a tool to increase voter awareness and institutional visibility.</li> <li>• BVR updating efforts in Choiseul and Western province assisted a total of 26 AROs (12 in Western Province and 16 in Choiseul) in BVR data entry skills to ensure the successful management of the 2017 general elections.</li> <li>• Review of SIEC procedural training programs and manuals for electoral staff, including recommendations for ways forward to strengthen SIEC electoral procedures.</li> <li>• Design of a foundation training on electoral administration with a view to broaden the pool of potential staff, in particular women and youth, to be engaged by the OSIEC on future national elections.</li> </ul> <p>Output 2.2</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Renovated and more secure office space at SIEC compound to comply with UNDP security and safety regulations.</li> <li>• Presentation of business case and preparation of procurement action for the construction of data- centre to enable SIEC to have full ownership of BVR operations and the required</li> </ul>	
--	--	---------------------------	--	--	--

*Strengthening the Electoral Cycle in the Solomon Islands (SECSIP)*

				human capacities to reliably operate the system.	
<p>Output 3: National authorities and local networks have better capacity to train and educate the population on voter awareness and civic engagement</p> <p>3.1 Enhanced strategic ability of the SIEC to conduct civic and voter education</p> <p>3.2. Strengthened civic and voter education</p> <p>Increase in evidence based reporting and research to support the integrity of the electoral process and the fuller participation of women, youth, and PWD</p>	<p>Use of SIEC website by electorate</p> <p>Quality of media coverage of the electoral process and of candidates</p>	<p>Website re-established with SECSIP support</p> <p>“Election coverage by print media seemed balanced, overall media provided comprehensive coverage of elections including analyses and commentaries”<sup>3</sup></p>	<p>_____</p> <p>Revamped website running efficiently</p> <p>Training on Media and Elections targeting media professionals in the country</p> <p>3.1 Technical advice/support to awareness raising. Five (5) or more partnership activities effectively contributing to voter awareness and enhancement of SIEC media relations.</p> <p>3.2 Eight (10) or more partnership activities on voter awareness &amp; monitoring of partner activities (at least 1).</p>	<p><b>Progress Keys:</b></p> <p><b>On Track</b></p> <p><i>Report Results Achieved against Activity Results 3 Indicator(s):</i></p> <p><i>Implementation of awareness activities in line with SIEC Awareness Strategy 2016-2019 :</i></p> <p>Output 3.1</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>SIEC Communications &amp; Awareness Team strengthened. Engagement of 2 national consultants to provide specialized support instrumental for SIEC media relations and civil society outreach related activities. This included design and implementation of workshops on Media and Elections (Political Parties Integrity Act, Political Parties in the Solomon Islands, Media covering on Parliament, and Electoral Reform) in two provinces (Gizo, Western Province and Auki, Malaita Province), and three additional media workshops in Honiara. The provincial workshops resulted in enhanced knowledge and skills of twenty (20) media professionals (12 in Gizo- including 3 women- and 8 in Auki) to cover electoral related topics. In other words, 90% of all provincial based media professionals (*) representing</li> </ul>	<p>See - participants’ lists for SIACLC and VTT</p> <p>Article on Media and Elections training</p> <p>Radio programme broadcasted through SIBC on Tuesday and Friday</p>

<sup>3</sup> Commonwealth observer’s report 2014

*Strengthening the Electoral Cycle in the Solomon Islands (SECSIP)*

				<p>4 media groups benefitted from the trainings.</p> <p>(*) Percentage obtained from an initial baseline information-gathering exercise by facilitator Ednal Palmer in preparation for the Media and Elections training. He liaised with all the media organisations in the country, including newspaper, radio, television, and compiled a list of active journalists and free-lancers based in the provinces, which included Malaita and Western provinces only.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Pre-testing of poster for voter campaign to assess effectiveness of awareness materials, involving interviews with 29 community members (17 female) in 6 villages of Guadalcanal (Barana, Aruligho, Ghorabau, Riffle Range, Mbokona, and Baranaba).</li> <li>• 15-minute radio programme on voter registration and voter related activities broadcasted through SIBC (November-February) to increase electorate’s awareness of voter related activities, including voter engagement.</li> </ul> <p>Output 3.2</p> <p>Increased outreach for the implementation of civic and voter education activities - Highlight of activities implemented by partners:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Village Technology Trust (VTT)- 19 Participants (18 female) of the filmmaking project with the Matangi Women’s Association (Bellona) were interviewed during a monitoring exercise. Feedback gathered</li> </ul>	
--	--	--	--	---	--

*Strengthening the Electoral Cycle in the Solomon Islands (SECSIP)*

				<p>highlighted acquired skills by women in the community such as story telling, role-play and camera skills</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• SIACLC- 3-day ToT targeting 8 participants in Nolan Pentecost Community Learning Centre in Maro'u village (Makira Ulawa Province) from the 23<sup>rd</sup> to the 25<sup>th</sup> of July 2017. Extended awareness trainings in neighboring communities (Maro'u, Su'u wasi, Tawarodo, Suena village, Suena Community High School) from the 25<sup>th</sup> to the 28<sup>th</sup> of July. Participants totaled 167 community members (including 84 female).</li> <li>• Tefila Marketing and Enterprise Development -school visit to North Malaita (Afufu Community high school) on the 19<sup>th</sup> of October. Voter awareness activity targeting 65 students (25 female) from forms 4-6</li> <li>• School election project awareness activities in 7 schools (Potau, Avuavu, Kopiu and Potau -Gadalcanal; Niupani and Puia schools -Renbell; and Guguha CHS and Jejevo CH-Isabel) reaching approximately 765 participants (students &amp; teachers)</li> <li>• Training of Trainers (ToT) in Makira targeting ten (10) community leaders from civil society and faith-based groups with a view to strengthen the capacity of Civil Society Trainers to better understand and expand their knowledge on electoral procedures.</li> </ul>	
--	--	--	--	--	--

*Strengthening the Electoral Cycle in the Solomon Islands (SECSIP)*

<p>Output 4: Electoral reform, advocacy and monitoring supported to contribute to a stronger electoral commission and representative democracy</p>	<p>4.1 State institutions with improved administrative and human resource capacities to undertake drafting, public outreach and consultation and with mechanisms to ensure the participation of women and marginalized groups.</p>	<p>SECSIP I provided assistance for outreach, but systems not sustained beyond election period, &amp; work done by electoral reform task force</p>	<p>Capacity assistance partially improved</p> <p>Support to Electoral Reform and bill motions</p> <p>4.1 Support actions to enhance SIEC and PPC capacity to conduct legal analysis, review and legislative drafting.</p>	<p><b>Progress Keys:</b></p> <p><b>On Track</b></p> <p><i>Report Results Achieved against Activity Results 3 Indicator(s):</i></p> <p><i>Extent to which SIEC and PPC have made contributions in connection with the reform:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>On-going technical support to the Electoral Reform Task force in its role as an advisory body for the electoral and political reform. This involved the engagement of a Legislative Drafter consultant to carry out the drafting of three bills for Cabinet approval (Electoral Bill, Political Parties Integrity (Amendment) Bill, and Constitution (Consequential Amendment) Bill), including debriefing sessions to relevant government agencies.</li> <li>Support to staff of the Political Parties and Integrity Commission, Chairman of the Electoral Commission, and representatives of four political parties to participate in a Pacific Regional Dialogue on Political Parties with a view to strengthen the institutional capacity of political parties to positively contribute to long-term effective and sustainable political party systems to increase voters' confidence and enhance democratic practices in the country.</li> </ul>	
<p>Output 5: Increased women's political</p>	<p>Number of persons reached directly on issues of equal participation and</p>		<p>Five (5) or more partnership activities</p>	<p><b>Progress Keys:</b></p> <p><b>On Track</b></p>	<p>-Participant's list for ToT</p>



*Strengthening the Electoral Cycle in the Solomon Islands (SECSIP)*

<p>participation and leadership</p> <p>5.1 Enhanced ability of women to participate in the electoral and political processes</p>	<p>women's participation</p> <p>(trainings, workshops, conferences, etc)</p>	<p>No baseline information available</p>	<p>focused on the promotion of women's leadership and political participation</p>	<p><i>Report Results Achieved against Activity Results 3 Indicator(s):</i></p> <p><i>Increased capacity of communities to promote women's political participation:</i></p> <p>Activities by SECSIP partners:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Village Technology Trust (VTT) conducted a 3-day workshop targeting 18 members of the Matangi Women's Association (15 female) with the goal to create a video on community stories regarding girls' education, traditional gender roles, and aspirations of female students. This video will be published and uploaded on a website called TIMBY where it will contribute to promote women in political leadership and will encourage support for women who aspire to take on roles at all levels of leadership.</li> <li>• Launch of School Poster and Essay competition including awareness sessions at 9 secondary schools (Guadalcanal, Isabel Province, and Rennell Province) targeting approximately 765 participants (students &amp; teachers).</li> <li>• Dissemination of information materials to all 250 secondary schools across 10 provinces (including Honiara) across the country.</li> </ul>	<p>conducted by VTT</p> <p>-Internal mission report for VTT Monitoring activity</p> <p>-Link to SIEC website announcing the Poster and Essay competition</p> <p><a href="http://www.siec.gov.sb/2017">http://www.siec.gov.sb/2017</a></p>
--	--	--	---	--	---

**OVERALL OUTPUT PROGRESS RESULTS**

- Implementation of immediate risk mitigating actions to secure the BVR data, confirming following limitations of current BVR system:
  - o No audit or traceability records on user actions.
  - o Records with limited history and lifecycles.
  - o Two fingerprints collected per voter.
  - o De-duplication conducted abroad.
  - o Manual data transfers.
  - o Use of developer grade scripts.
  - o Fingerprints stored in jpeg format.
  
- Key efforts toward ensuring the sustainability of the Biometric Voter Registration (BVR) system through the engagement of a BVR Expert to carry out the migration of the BVR database to ICT SU data centre, and to produce an in depth technical analysis of the existing BVR system, including a report with detailed advice for the upgrading of the system.
- Registration efforts for provincial elections were supported with initial deployment of 16 BVR kits to 2 provinces (12 to Western Province and 4 to Choiseul), and recruitment of a Nepalese BVR team to engage in the day-to-day maintenance of BVR equipment and software, and to support the BVR updating process, including assistance to Area Registration Officers (AROs), in Choiseul and Western Province.
- Assessment of SIEC procedural training programs and manuals for electoral staff, and design of a foundation training on electoral administration with a view to broaden the pool of potential staff, particularly women and youth, to be engaged by the OSIEC on future national elections.
- Support to SIEC human capacities through a proposal for a graduate programme with the aim to train a pool of qualified staff on BVR management and operations to mitigate constraints of the current staff structure of SIEC.
- Enhanced SIEC staff website management skills through a training on website navigation.
- Efforts to advance the Electoral Reform through the engagement of a Legislative Drafter/Legal Adviser to finalise the drafting of the Reform Bills with a view to strengthen the registration system and monitoring of political parties, address issues on women participation and representation in public and political life of the Solomon Islands, establish a new voting system, and conduct the merge of the PPC into SIEC.
- Increased electoral awareness of citizens through partnerships with Civil Society Organisations and with professional groups such as media professionals. Conclusion of the Media and Elections training sessions targeting provincial based media professionals in Malaita and Western Province.
- Increased voter awareness at schools through the implementation of the School Election Project in Rennel, Guadalcanal and Malaita provinces, and a Training of Trainers activity on voter participation and engagement targeting civil society and faith-based groups in Makira Province.
- Strengthening partnerships through the small grants initiative with continued support to partners (VTT, SIACLC, Tefila Marketing) on voter awareness and women's leadership activities.

*Strengthening the Electoral Cycle in the Solomon Islands (SECSIP)*

- Secondary School Poster and Essay Competition to encourage students and teachers to reflect on women’s leadership and political participation in the Solomon Islands

**Progress Keys:**

**On Track**

**PART 2: PARTNERSHIP (\*\*Describe the achievement of partners that were identified as critical for the planned results )**

<i>Implementing Partner (IP) and Focal Point Contact (Title, email, fax, phone, address)</i>	<i>Type of Partnerships/Role</i>	<i>Duration of Partnership</i>	<i>Progress of Partnership (**) Deliverables (link to indicator (s))</i>
Media Association of the Solomon Islands (MASI)	(Formal) Co- implement the Media and Election trainings with SIEC	9 months	-1-week training targeting media professionals in Malaita province (8 males) -1-week training targeting media professionals in Western Province (9 male, 3 female) -3-day follow-up training in Honiara targeting 80, 53, and 46 media professionals (including 18, 12, 9 females) -Closing ceremony presenting certificates to all participants.
Village Technology Trust	Formal/ grantee	1 year	Completion of a 3-day workshop targeting 18 members of the Matangi Women’s Association (15 female) with the goal to create a video on community stories regarding girls’ education, traditional gender roles, and aspirations of female students.
SIACL	Formal/ grantee	6 months	Completion of a- 3-day ToT targeting 8 participants in Nolan Pentecost Community Learning Centre in Maro’u village (Makira Ulawa Province) from the 23 <sup>rd</sup> to the 25 <sup>th</sup> of July 2017. Extended awareness trainings in neighboring communities (Maro’u, Su’u wasi, Tawarodo, Suena village,

*Strengthening the Electoral Cycle in the Solomon Islands (SECSIP)*

			Suena Community High School) from the 25 <sup>th</sup> to the 28 <sup>th</sup> of July. Participants totaled 167 community members (including 84 female).
Tefila Marketing Enterprises and Development	Formal/ grantee	8 months	School visit to North Malaita (Afufu Community high school) on the 19 <sup>th</sup> of October. Voter awareness activity targeting 65 students (25 female) from forms 4-6
MEHRD	Formal	ongoing	School election project awareness activities in 7 schools (Potau, Avuavu, Kopiu and Potau -Gadalcanal; Niupani and Puia schools -Renbell; and Guguha CHS and Jejevo CH-Isabel) reaching approximately 765 participants (students & teachers)

**PART 3: RISK and ASSUMPTIONS** - Update the *Risk Log* on this section (*This can be updated directly in ATLAS*).

<i>Risk</i>	<i>Mitigation Action</i>	<i>Timeframe</i>	<i>Progress of Mitigation Action (s)</i>
Engagement of stakeholders by the Electoral Commission is not as extensive as originally envisaged	During its phase I, the project support has been essential to the actions carried out for consultation (Regional Conferences, Dialogues on Election System and Provincial Tours). Prospective legal reforms require a wide and inclusive consultation process to raise awareness on legal changes.  Phase II envisages key activities to enhance engagement of relevant stakeholders (public, government ministries, donors and CSOs) to continue building collaboration mechanisms with governmental and civil society with a view to have ample participation and awareness on key reform aspects.	Ongoing	Partnerships established with key stakeholders, including MASI and Civil Society acting as champions in the dissemination of voter education.
The amendments of the Electoral Legal Framework are passed by Parliament close to the election. SIEC capacity and resources to	The project should have adequate capacity to react and mitigate/manage the situation including through the coordinated actions of multilateral and bilateral for support and technical advice of OSIEC staff	End of 2017 to program fully established during the	Proposal for a plan to establish a graduate programme to increase human capacity.

*Strengthening the Electoral Cycle in the Solomon Islands (SECSIP)*

adopt the necessary measures may fall short due to resource constraints in a timely fashion		second quarter of 2018	
Capacity constraints in key institutions: SIEC, and OEC in the Ministry of Home Affairs to implement and participate in project activities	<p>Careful and pragmatic prioritisation, planning and sequencing of project activities together with stakeholders to achieve that: project activities are reflected in stakeholders annual plans, that updates to the Project Board on potential challenges and mitigation strategies are identified early, that change leaders are identified early, and over ambitious scheduling is avoided.</p> <p>Ensure that the pace of implementation is appropriate to avoid 'project fatigue' and matches the absorptive capacity.</p> <p>Ensure the scope of activities and terms of references are endorsed by stakeholders.</p>	Achieved through a clear monitoring and evaluation plan successfully running by December 2018.	Monitoring & Evaluation plan produced by M&E expert to be implemented by UNV M&E officer. Recruitment of M&E officer to be recruited by the end of December.
Voter registration update does not enfranchise all eligible citizens or the data is lost/imapred	<p>The roll has not been updated since 2014. Citizens who have turned out 18 (an important segment of the voting population) need to be included</p> <p>Those who have deceased have to be deleted from the roll.</p> <p>SECSIP Phase II will endeavour to support SIEC in its awareness and outreach efforts targeting key segments of the population to encourage new entries in the roll with a view to ensure an inclusive and reliable roll</p>	December 2017 to December 2018	<p>Registration campaign launched to announce commencement of registration process.</p> <p>Radio campaign from November to February to announce registration process</p> <p>Registration process conducted in Choiseul and Western Province.</p>
Natural disasters that impact directly on stakeholder priorities and ability to implement and participate in activities under the project.	Ensure flexible schedule for activity implementation to minimise potential impact on outputs and ensure sequenced and timely implementation of project activities, with adjustments made where necessary.	Ongoing	For ToT activity, weather conditions resulted in cancelation of flights to Temotu. However, the training was still conducted in Makira.

**PART 4: KNOWLEDGE MANAGEMENT AND COMMUNICATION**

## *Strengthening the Electoral Cycle in the Solomon Islands (SECSIP)*

List any specific knowledge products that was produced to leverage project results. Level of project visibility and lessons learned generated by the project should be documented.

- Publication of the Media Trainings targeting media professionals in the Solomon Islands on the EC-UNDP Joint Taskforce blog to increase visibility of the project's work in preparation of the upcoming general elections.
- Radio programme broadcasted through the SIBC on Tuesday and Friday from November 2017 to February 2018 to announce the registration process and electoral related activities, such as the School poster and essay competition on women's leadership and political participation

### **PART 5: KEY LESSONS LEARNT AND CHALLENGES (optional?)**

List key challenges experienced in this quarter

- Human capacity constraints remain a challenge for the Electoral Commission to fulfil its mandate. The limited pool of staff with the required BVR technical skills and the current SIEC staffing structure (fully reliant on one-person units) has posed the SIEC in a position of vulnerability due to the impact of unexpected loss of one or more staff. During the reporting period, the SIEC Senior ICT officer presented his resignation. To mitigate the impact of the ICT officer's departure in the short-term, SECSIP II recruited a team of three (3) Nepalese BVR experts to engage in the day-to-day maintenance of BVR equipment and software, and to support the BVR updating process. In order to mitigate the long-term impact, SECSIP II has developed a proposal to establish a graduate programme with the goal to train a pool of qualified staff on BVR management and operations.
- The monitoring of partnership activities and timely delivery of acquittals and term reports by partners has also been a challenge. In order to mitigate this with future partners, SECSIP II engaged a M&E expert to develop a clear M&E plan to strengthen the timely implementation of activities, and to ensure that the pace of implementation is appropriate to avoid 'project fatigue'.
- Efforts to advance the electoral reform, in particular discussions of the produced electoral bills, were hampered due to a 'motion of no confidence'. Discussions of the bills were postponed to early 2018.

**PART 6: SUSTAINABILITY AND SCALING UP (\*\*This question is only applicable if project is reporting on its final quarter) Describe how the project has used relevant national systems to sustain and scale up the results achieved. Describe how the national capacities have been strengthened through this project and how national ownership has been realized.**

*Strengthening the Electoral Cycle in the Solomon Islands (SECSIP)*

SECSIP II has continued providing support to SIEC and contributed to the implementation of its mandate. One of the actions taken involved the development of synergies and strategic partnerships with a range of national stakeholders including government and civil society entities to contribute to an enabling environment for credible and inclusive elections. In line with a pre-election period, greater efforts were invested in the area of voter education and awareness to increase political participation and engagement. The strengthening of national capacities was geared toward providing media professionals (including provincial based) with the essential tools to equip them with the knowledge and skills required to perform their role confidently and contribute to a peaceful, transparent and credible election process. Extensive groundwork was done with a view to continue strengthening SIEC capacity and human resources. Key actions put forward included the transferring of BVR database, the assessment of SIEC electoral procedural training programs and manuals, and the proposal for a graduate programme to address SIEC staff structure constraints. At the reform level, relevant progress was made toward finalizing the drafting of three electoral bills, which will be tabled for discussion early in 2018.

**PART 7: QUARTERLY FINANCIAL REPORT (results achieved should closely reflect % of budget spent)**

Activity Result	Planned Activities	Budget	Amount Spent	Balance
<b>Sustainability of and inclusiveness of registration system enhanced</b>	-Engagement of BVR expert to provide technical advice and to conduct the transfer of BVR database  -Engagement of Nepalese BVR experts	\$138,000		
<b>Enhanced capacity of SIEC to manage an electoral cycle</b>	-Graduate programme  -Trainings  -Assessments	\$49,000		
<b>Strategic ability of the SIEC to coordinate and conduct a voter/civic</b>	-Media and elections training  -Training for SIEC staff on website management	\$49,000		

*Strengthening the Electoral Cycle in the Solomon Islands (SECSIP)*

<b>education enhanced</b>				
<b>Increased Implementation of civic and voter education activities</b>	- Partnerships with CSOs -School elections project	\$98,000		
<b>Strengthened capacity of PPC,SIEC and other actors involved in the reform process</b>	-Engagement of a legal adviser/legislative drafter	\$58,000		
<b>Enhanced ability of women to act as leaders &amp; representatives</b>	-School elections project	\$8,000		

**PART 8: LIST OF EVIDENCE PROVIDED AS ANNEX**

**Note:** *If training has been done for youths or women you need to have evidence via list of participants disaggregated by gender, age and signed by participants (as per workshop participant list etc.) For Workshop reports the following are required; author, date of report and title. A copy of the final report needs to be submitted.*

<i>Title</i>	<i>Author</i>	<i>Date of publication</i>
<i>Email correspondence re-BVR equipment</i>	<i>PS MOHA George Palua and SECSIP CTA Olga Rábade</i>	<i>6/11/2017</i>
<i>Re-access to BVR data</i>	<i>PS MOHA George Palua; UNDP Country Manager Azusa</i>	<i>2/11/2017</i>



*Strengthening the Electoral Cycle in the Solomon Islands (SECSIP)*

	<i>Kubota; SECSIP CTA Olga Rábade</i>	
<i>Election Media Trainings Oct</i>	<i>EC-UNDP Joint task force</i>	<i>18/10/2017</i>
<i>Participants' list SIACLC</i>	<i>SIACLC</i>	<i>28/07/2017</i>
<i>Participants' list VTT</i>	<i>VTT</i>	<i>16/08/2017</i>
<i>Screenshot of upgraded website</i>	<i>SIEC website</i>	<i>November 2017</i>
<i>Renbel back to office report</i>	<i>Deborah Bora-Kole</i>	<i>30/11/2017</i>

**PART 9: QUALITY ASSURANCE**

<p>PROJECT MANAGER:</p>  <p><i>Name:</i></p> <p><i>Signature:</i></p>	<p>REVIEWED &amp; APPROVED:</p>  <p><i>TEAM LEADER</i></p> <p><i>Name:</i></p> <p><i>Signature</i></p>
---	--