

# **QUARTERLY PROGRESS REPORT**

*Date: 01 April to 30 June 2018*

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

**PROJECT NUMBER: 00103473**

**Applicable Output(s) from the SRPD (2018-2020):**

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

Key achievements of *Strengthening the Electoral Cycle in the Solomon Islands Project Phase II* (SECSIP II) during the reporting period are:

- Efficiency of voter registration process improved due to technical advice and upgrading of equipment. SECSIP also initiated the procurement of spare kits, and enhancement of maintenance and security of the equipment in the new data centre which will result in more dependability of the process.
- SECSIP contributed to the organization of a by-election on 23 May to choose the Member of Parliament to represent the Gizo-Kolombangara Constituency. The Project provided support in the areas of awareness and logistics.
- The support to the legal reform was strengthened through SECSIP's engagement of a Legislative Drafter who worked with the Task Force for the drafting of three bills (Electoral Bill, Political Parties Integrity (Amendment) Bill, and Constitution (Consequential Amendment) Bill). The Prime Minister and the Minister for Home Affairs were each briefed separately on the Electoral Reform Policies before the Reform Bills were taken to Caucus and Cabinet. The PPC was also briefed on the proposed amendments to the PPIA. Caucus had endorsed the Electoral Reform policies, including its constitutional consequential matters.
- Findings and recommendations resulting from an Electoral Risk Assessment exercise commissioned by SECSIP had contributed to devise and implement strategies to anticipate and mitigate risks including those in connection with electoral related violence.
- Award giving ceremony contributed in increasing awareness of students and teachers on women leadership and political participation. 17 winners of the poster and essay competition received awards on 5<sup>th</sup> April at the Art Gallery Display room in presence of a number of relevant stakeholders.
- Approximately 500 people benefited from the mock voter registration activity conducted during Kodili festival in Buala, Isabel province (26-28 June). SECSIP also supported the voter awareness by producing and distributing 200 posters/pamphlets, airing three TV commercials on voter registration during FIFA World Cup, and producing other awareness tools included tri-folded pamphlets illustrating the key voter registration phases, stickers, pull up banners, etc.

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**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	OUTPUTS INDICATORS RESULTS	EVIDENCE (SOURCE, LINK)
<p><b>Output 1:</b> Sustainable voter registration system created to strengthen the inclusiveness and integrity of the electoral cycle</p>	<p>Proportion of eligible voters who are registered to vote, disaggregated by sex, age, and excluded groups including PLWD</p>	<p>85%</p>	<p>90%</p>	<p><b>Progress Keys :</b> <b>On Track</b></p> <p><i>Report Results Achieved against Activity Results 1 Indicator(s): Extent to which SIEC developed a sustainable voter's roll and relevant sustainable mechanisms:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- As per the plan endorsed by CEO, SECSIP engaged a Senior Biometric Adviser and a Software Engineer to build a core team of national expertise with BVR technical skills to build national capacity, ownership and long term sustainability,</li> <li>- Dependability on BVR kits enhanced due to technical verification and functional categorization done in the first quarter and identification of priority needs to enhance efficiency of the voter operations and</li> <li>- SECSIP also initiated procurement actions including spare parts for the upcoming national registration campaign (BVR kits batteries, printer batteries, cartridges, finger print scanner, portable generators),</li> <li>- In accordance with the Terms of Reference, SECSIP Software Developer commenced to work on the upgrades of software to support the automation of backups and the migration of biometric data to a proper</li> </ul>	<p>Link for evidence: <a href="https://drive.google.com/open?id=1-dKujMftPwC5BJDi3loq6bE08YKRwPAT">https://drive.google.com/open?id=1-dKujMftPwC5BJDi3loq6bE08YKRwPAT</a></p>

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				database system with enhanced data integrity protection.	
<p><b>Output 2:</b> More efficient and effective administrative procedures designed and implemented for the Solomon Islands Election Commission (SIEC) to fulfill its mandate</p>	<p>Electoral authorities with improved administrative and human resources capacities to fulfil mandate</p> <p>To be assessed on the following rating scale:</p> <p>0=UNDP is not building capacity of the electoral authorities</p> <p>1=Capacity has not improved</p> <p>2= Capacity very partially improved</p> <p>3= Capacity partially improved</p> <p>4= Capacity largely improved</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>3 (on the capacity rating scale)</p>	<p><b>Progress Keys:</b></p> <p><b>On Track</b></p> <p><i>Report Results Achieved against Activity Results 2 Indicator(s): Enhanced capacity of SIEC to manage an electoral cycle through the following actions:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- SECSIP supported SIEC in the organization of the by-election held on 23 May to choose the Member of Parliament to represent the Gizo-Kolombangara Constituency<sup>1</sup>.</li> <li>- Enhanced operational capacity of the Electoral Office due to engagement of SECSIP Operations Specialist (EOS) who joined on 30 May. The contribution of EOS was instrumental for the development of a detailed operational plan and deployment timeline was prepared and presented to the Commission for its endorsement. The new operational plan provided a comprehensive explanation unfolding the various phases of the Biometric Voter Register update. Together with the OSIEC Head of Operations, EOS facilitated several roundtable discussions to define individual work-plans for the areas of public outreach, logistics, human resources and finance.</li> <li>- The Project commenced working on a proposal for the architecture and setup of the networks and computer-side requirements (i.e. the wiring ensuring the right connectivity is available for the BVR kits and for the servers) with a view to achieve an efficient operation of equipment</li> </ul>	<p>Link to electoral risk assessment report:</p> <p><a href="https://drive.google.com/open?id=1fzCVfGagM16hRGtoCu99ycJr-5vCAoj2">https://drive.google.com/open?id=1fzCVfGagM16hRGtoCu99ycJr-5vCAoj2</a></p>

<sup>1</sup> The second female Member of Parliament, Hon. Lanelle Tanangada was elected.

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				<p>and human resources. The proposal aimed to contribute to a more efficient operation of the voter registration process by enhancing the maintenance and security of the equipment and best utilization of data centre resources.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- An Electoral Risk Assessment exercise completed in June 2018, identified the challenges associated with the general election and suggested how the project activities can be strengthened to anticipate and mitigate risks including those in connection with electoral related violence. During a week in-country mission, the assessment team met bilaterally and also had round table discussions with national authorities and stakeholders including SIEC, PPC, MOHA, MEHRD, MWYFA and international partners such as the EU Ambassador and the Australian High Commission. UNDP Asia Pacific Governance and Peace Building Adviser, Simon Finley and Individual Consultant, Julien Barbara were the members of the assessment team.</li> </ul>	
Output 3: National authorities and local networks have better capacity to train and educate the population on voter awareness and civic engagement	Country with strengthened environments for civic engagement, including legal/regulatory framework for civil society organizations to function in the public sphere and contribute to development, and effective mechanisms/platfor	None	Low	<p><b>Progress Keys:</b></p> <p><b>On Track</b></p> <p><i>Report Results Achieved against <b>Activity Results 3 Indicator(s): Implementation of awareness activities in line with SIEC Awareness Strategy 2016-2019 :</b></i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Support to strengthen the ability of Electoral Office in the areas of awareness and communication continued. Meetings with potential civil society partners were held in June in preparation for the establishment of partnerships to implement the joint voter awareness</li> </ul>	<p>Links for evidence:</p> <p>Email correspondence with SolRice:</p> <p><a href="https://drive.google.com/open?id=1YZTlvvjSomzhaUbhC7HggIDnaUjYWTpO">https://drive.google.com/open?id=1YZTlvvjSomzhaUbhC7HggIDnaUjYWTpO</a></p>

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	<p>ms to engage civil society (with a focus on women, youth or excluded groups).</p> <p>Degree of effectiveness should be scored using the following scale:</p> <p>1=Low</p> <p>2=Medium</p> <p>3=High</p>			<p>initiative developed by SECSIP Senior Electoral Adviser, Carlos Valenzuela.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The first meeting of the new Voter Awareness Stakeholder Working Group was organised on 7 June 2018. On this date, the SIEC Communications Awareness Team and SECSIP Advisors discussed the TOR of this working group which was endorsed by 15 representatives of the civil society. This working group will do monitoring of awareness activities contributing to maintain the consistency of the message and avoiding duplication of efforts.</li> <li>- On 30 May 2018, SECSIP and SolRice signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) to collaborate in the dissemination of voter awareness materials through SolRice network and distribution channels. SolRice is a leading rice wholesaler and generously agreed on a pro-bono basis to SECSIP innovative proposal which involves allowing self-adhesive plastic document envelopes carrying voter awareness leaflets to be affixed to its 40lb rice bags. This has made an important contribution to expand outreach of voter registration awareness materials, given the extensive network of the rice wholesaler,</li> <li>- SECSIP supported voter registration awareness by producing and distributing 200 posters and pamphlets on the registration process. The project also supported the mock voter registration activity conducted during Kodili festival in Buala, Isabel Province (from 26-28 June). It is estimated that, this event benefited around 500 people.</li> <li>- Outreach increased during the FIFA World Cup by airing TV commercials on voter registration. SECSIP provided technical</li> </ul>	<p>Link for poster, leaflet, pull up banners:</p> <p><a href="https://drive.google.com/open?id=17t7X-bH3fdhcari1u3lIN5zHZ8HLP_Z1">https://drive.google.com/open?id=17t7X-bH3fdhcari1u3lIN5zHZ8HLP_Z1</a></p>
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				<p>expertise for the plan, design and production of the TV Commercials as well as financial support. Three TV commercials on voter registration were produced and aired during the FIFA World Cup. This also helped to reach more young people who are the key target group in the overall voter awareness campaign. SECSIP also supported to prepare a range of other awareness raising tools including tri-folded pamphlets illustrating the key voter registration phases, stickers, pull up banners, etc.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The project also supported the production and telecast cost of a 15 minute radio programme on nomination requirements, electoral campaign policy, electoral offences, etc. for Gizo-Kolombangara by-election.</li> <li>- To improve the evidence based planning and reporting, a research on 'Women Leadership and Political Participation' was continuing in this reporting period.</li> <li>- An electoral risk assessment conducted in this quarter contributes in better preparation by EO and increased participation of the electorate.</li> </ul>	
Output 4: Electoral reform, advocacy and monitoring supported to contribute to a stronger electoral commission and representative democracy	4.1 a) 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	0	3 (capacity partially improved)	<p><b>Progress Keys:</b></p> <p><b>On track</b></p> <p><i>Report Results Achieved against <b>Activity Results 4 Indicator(s):</b></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>- SECSIP continued providing technical support to the Electoral Reform Task force in its role as the leading advisory body for</li> </ul>	<p>Link for evidence:</p> <p><a href="https://drive.google.com/open?id=1UcCMKFUxv8BbngmTwBQN9g33K3mw_xiY">https://drive.google.com/open?id=1UcCMKFUxv8BbngmTwBQN9g33K3mw_xiY</a></p>

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	<p>marginalized groups.</p> <p><i>Assessed on scale: 0 = UNDP not building capacity of the SIEC/PPC 1 = Capacity not improved 2 = Capacity very partially improved 3 = Capacity partially improved 4= Capacity largely improved</i></p>			<p>the electoral and political reform. The constitutional amendments, allowing for the modification of the electoral and the political party bills, already in Parliament, were submitted to Parliament during this reporting period. The legal reform process commenced 2 years ago and has been supported by the project throughout this period. A SECSIP funded Legislative Drafter worked closely with the Task Force for drafting these three bills for Cabinet approval (Electoral Bill, Political Parties Integrity (Amendment) Bill, and Constitution (Consequential Amendment) Bill), and conducted debriefing sessions to relevant government agencies. At the request of the Electoral Task Force, SECSIP extended the contract of Legal Adviser and Legislative Drafter Consultant to assist during discussions with Government Caucus and Cabinet, subsequent tabling in Parliament,</p>	
<p>Output 5: Increased capacity of communities to promote women’s political participation</p>	<p>Proportion of women (to men) participating as candidates in local and national elections</p> <p>To be assessed on the following rating scale:</p> <p>0=UNDP is not building capacity of the communitis</p> <p>1=Capacity has not improved</p>	0	3	<p><b>Progress Keys:</b></p> <p><b>On Track</b></p> <p><i>Report Results Achieved against <b>Activity Results 5 Indicator(s):</b></i></p> <p><i>Knowledge of women improved, and factors impacting on political participation of women documented.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Primary data collection was completed during this quarter for a research on Women’s Leadership and Political Participation in 10 selected constituencies. Data collection was started in early April including site visits to 10 constituencies</li> </ul>	<p>Link to data collection completion brief and essay competition winners:</p> <p><a href="https://drive.google.com/open?id=19pFcVixkVEuL-aW2Lohho_tuGce_wospU">https://drive.google.com/open?id=19pFcVixkVEuL-aW2Lohho_tuGce_wospU</a></p>

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	<p>2= Capacity very partially improved</p> <p>3= Capacity partially improved</p> <p>4= Capacity largely improved</p>			<p>located in Honiara, Malaita, Western Province, Isabel, and Central Province. This study will document the factors inhibiting and enabling women’s political participation. Also helps SECSIP to make informed and integrated initiative and action plan in support of women candidates.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Support continued to raise the awareness for students and teachers. Winner of the poster and essay competition received awards on 5<sup>th</sup> April at the Art Gallery Display room. The panel of judges included representatives from Solomon Islands Artist Association, Media Association of Solomon Islands (MASI), SINU, MWYCFA, MEHRD, and teachers from secondary schools. The Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Home Affairs provided the key note speech and presented the awards to the winners in junior student category. The EU Ambassador HE Leonidas Tezapsidis presented the awards to the winners in senior student category. The Australian High Commissioner, HE Roderick Brazier presented the awards to the teachers and remarked on the importance of secondary schools teachers and their influence to motivate and encourage future leaders.</li> </ul>	
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**OVERALL OUTPUT PROGRESS RESULTS**

**RESULTS**

Consolidation of information from QPR 1,2,3 and 4. To be done at Q4 reporting period as this contributed to ROAR Section B and IWP EA Reporting

*Progress Keys:*

*On Track*



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**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	2 years	MASI organized a Media workshop (11-13 April) and an Anti-Corruption Reporting Training (16-19 April) for 39 People. Also organized a Media Broadcast training (4-15 June) for 12 participants from radio stations.
Voter Awareness Stakeholder Group	Informal	TBD	SECSIP discussed the Terms of Reference of this group and agreed on it role, particularly, monitoring of voter awareness activity.
Sustineo	Formal	6 month	Field data collection through interview and household survey for a study on Women Leadership and Political Participation
SolRice	Formal	6 month	SolRice and SECSIP signed an agreement to distribute leaflets informing voters that they must register and check the Provisional Voter List for omissions and corrections.

**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	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	Engagement with key stakeholders continued through meeting, workshops and regular communication on progress of key activities.
The amendments of the Electoral Legal Framework	The project should have adequate capacity to react and mitigate/manage the situation including through the coordinated	Ongoing	SECSIP's engaged a Legislative Drafter who were working with the Task Force for

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are passed by Parliament close to the election. SIEC capacity and resources to adopt the necessary measures may fall short due to resource constraints in a timely fashion	actions of multilateral and bilateral for support and technical advice of OSIEC staff		drafting three bills for Cabinet approval (Electoral Bill, Political Parties Integrity (Amendment) Bill, and Constitution (Consequential Amendment) Bill).  A graduate programme was in process to deploy 10 graduates in different sections of SIEC to improve the human resource capacity.
Capacity constraints in key institutions: SIEC, and OEC in the Ministry of Home Affairs to implement and participate in project activities	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.  Ensure that the pace of implementation is appropriate to avoid 'project fatigue' and matches the absorptive capacity.  Ensure the scope of activities and terms of references are endorsed by stakeholders.	Achieved through a clear monitoring and evaluation plan successfully running by December 2018.	An Electoral Operation Specialist joined on 30 May and started working with the Head of Operation of Electoral Office.  The project initiated process to hire an IUNV Monitoring, Evaluation/Reporting Officer.
Voter registration update does not enfranchise all eligible citizens or the data is lost/impaired	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  Those who have deceased have to be deleted from the roll.  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	December 2017 to December 2018	Registration process conducted in Choiseul and Western Province with production of final voters' lists.
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	During the reporting period, no impact to project activities has been caused by natural disasters.

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Political climate of instability hampers electoral reform efforts	SECSIP II has provided ongoing technical support to the Electoral Reform Task Force in its role as an advisory body for the electoral and political reform. Flexible schedules for the reform process will be established with identification of expert advice to be provided at each stage of the process, even under strict deadlines and time constraints.	Ongoing	Stable political situation is observed during this reporting period
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**PART 4: KNOWLEDGE MANAGEMENT AND COMMUNICATION**

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.

- An Electoral Risk Assessment was conducted in this quarter. This assessment identified the challenges around the general election and suggested how the project activities can be strengthened to anticipate and mitigate risks including those in connection with electoral related violence. SECSIP shared this assessment report with relevant stakeholder.
- Community knowledge on voter registration increased by organizing a mock voter registration activity during Kodili festival in Buala, Isabel province, by producing and distributing 200 posters/pamphlets, airing three TV commercials on voter registration during FIFA World Cup, etc.
- Visibility of the project enhanced due to extensive media coverage (<http://theislandsun.com.sb/students-and-teachers-walk-away-with-laptops-and-mobiles/>) of award giving ceremony following a Poster and Essay competition on Women Leadership and Political Participation. A total of 27 students and teachers received the winning awards.

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

List key challenges experienced in this quarter

**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.

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

Output	Activity Result	Planned Key Activities	Total revised Budget (USD)	Amount Spent USD (Only Apr-Jun 2018)	Balance (USD) (Total Budget – Cumulative expense till Jun)
<b>Output 1</b>	<b>Sustainability of and inclusiveness of registration system enhanced</b>	- National voter registration. - Support to BVR and election procurement. - Support to SIEC on BVR database management. - Technical advice	118,500	66,421	-
<b>Output 2</b>	<b>Enhanced capacity of SIEC to manage an electoral cycle</b>	-Gizo-Kolombangara by-election -Graduate programme -Support to SIEC electoral operation.	1,179,500	241,833.71	930,003.43
<b>Output 3</b>	<b>Strategic ability of the SIEC to coordinate and conduct a voter/civic education enhanced</b>	-Voter awareness campaign. - Partnerships with CSOs -Media conference	263,000	76,139.27	148,143.93
<b>Output 4</b>	<b>Strengthened capacity of PPC,SIEC and other actors involved in the reform process</b>	-Engagement of a legal adviser/legislative drafter - Support to PPC	76,000	1,698.21	74,300.96
<b>Output 5</b>	<b>Enhanced ability of women to act as leaders &amp; representatives</b>	-Research on women’s political leadership and participation -Capacity building of potential women candidate	317,000	25,064.03	187,124.75
	<b>Project Management</b>	Human resource support	829,825	211,364.34	440,356.16
	<b>GMS</b>		188,515	66,117.83	93,576.81
<b>TOTAL</b>			<b>2,972,340</b>	<b>688,638.49</b>	<b>1,873,506.04</b>