

## **QUARTERLY PROGRESS REPORT**

*Date: January 1<sup>st</sup> to March 31<sup>st</sup> 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:

- Improved technical capacity of the Electoral Office (EO) to conduct the provincial update of the voters' roll operations in Western Province and Choiseul was instrumental in publication of provisional voters' lists, review of omission and objection claims, and imprint updated voters' lists.
- Technical and financial support to procure new BVR equipment and the construction of a new BVR database and results management centre at the EO compound is expected to increase the reliability, maintenance and security of BVR equipment.
- Enhanced strategic ability of SIEC to conduct civic and voter education activities through the development of a multi-party voter awareness programme and a mapping exercise seeking to identify and engage relevant partners without duplicating each other.
- Scope of evidence based reporting created due to commissioning a research on women leadership and political participation. This will contribute in developing capacity building plan for aspirant women and help addressing the barriers to women's participation in the elections as candidates.
- Increased awareness of secondary school students and teachers on issues faced by women in pursuing a leadership role in their communities and in politics, explored through their participation in the 2017-2018 Poster and Essay competition.

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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 (Jan-March 2018)	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><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>• Technical verification of registration (BVR) kits completed, resulting in thorough inventory and categorization of kits (a. functional, b. faulty laptops, c. faulty printers) and production of an electronic checklist form to assess the status of the kits.</li> <li>• Enhanced technical capacity of SIEC to conduct the provincial update of the voters' roll operations in Western Province and Choiseul, resulting in publication of provisional voters' lists, review of omission and objection claims, and imprint production of the updated voters' lists, which were submitted to the Ministry of Provincial Government.</li> <li>• Enhanced capabilities for BVR-related tasks paramount to the National Registration Campaign as a result of</li> </ul>	<p>Please view the <a href="#">link</a> below</p> <p><a href="https://drive.google.com/open?id=1-dKujMftPwC5BJDi3loq6bE08YKRwPAT">https://drive.google.com/open?id=1-dKujMftPwC5BJDi3loq6bE08YKRwPAT</a></p>

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				SECSIP's procurement of BVR equipment. This equipment has undergone a thorough technical inspection by the BVR experts.	
<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):</i></p> <p><i>Enhanced capacity of SIEC to manage an electoral cycle through the following actions:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Enhanced capacity of SIEC to manage an electoral cycle through the engagement of BVR technicians (3) to provide technical support for the completion of the electorates' registry in Choiseul and Western Province, including submission of final voters' lists to the Ministry of Provincial Government. This enabled SIEC to keep up to date with the proposed milestones in the electoral calendar.</li> <li>Enhanced efficiency, maintenance and security of BVR equipment through the construction of a BVR Database and Results Management Centre at SIEC compound, providing appropriate conditions for the newly acquired equipment.</li> <li>Strengthened ability of SIEC to protect and access the equipment and data, and reduced financial and logistical burden on SIEC to maintain the centre.</li> <li>Consultations with local churches and the private sector (SolRice) to explore and potentially establish new channels of</li> </ul>	<p>Please view the <a href="#">link</a> below</p> <p><a href="https://drive.google.com/open?id=1YZTlvvjSomzhaUbhC7HgqlDnaUjYWTpO">https://drive.google.com/open?id=1YZTlvvjSomzhaUbhC7HgqlDnaUjYWTpO</a></p>

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				cooperation to enhance SIEC outreach of voter awareness activities and information.	
Output 3: National authorities and local networks have better capacity to train and educate the population on voter awareness and civic engagement	<p>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/platforms 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 2=Medium 3=High</p>	None	Low	<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> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Production of an integrated voter awareness programme, including a proposal for 2 initiatives (a. broad voter awareness programme, and b. support to female candidates in the long term) discussed during a working group session involving relevant stakeholders (i.e. electoral authorities, government agencies and civil society organizations as well as other UNDP projects). This discussion sought participants’ input for the operationalization of both initiatives to strengthen civic and voter education.</li> <li>• Enhanced strategic ability of SIEC to conduct civic and voter education activities through a mapping exercise seeking to identify and engage relevant partners for the operationalization of the aforementioned initiatives. This activity is ongoing.</li> <li>• Consultations with local churches to explore and establish new channels of cooperation to extend voter awareness activities to the religious sector.</li> <li>• Increased evidence based reporting through the commission of a research</li> </ul>	<p>Please view the <a href="#">link</a> below</p> <p><a href="https://drive.google.com/open?id=1UeYx48u22Hf8wgs_T0xiABvhg6ckyXHm">https://drive.google.com/open?id=1UeYx48u22Hf8wgs_T0xiABvhg6ckyXHm</a></p>

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				<p>study to contribute to the full incorporation of women as political leaders and for the development of a strategic plan addressing the barriers to women’s participation in the elections as candidates. During the reporting period, the research team identified participating constituencies, finalized the survey questionnaire, carried out a pilot of the survey, and trained data collectors.</p>	
<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>To be assessed on the following rating scale:</p> <p>0=UNDP is not building capacity of the OSIEC and PPC</p> <p>1=Capacity has not improved</p> <p>2= Capacity very partially improved</p>	0	3 (Capacity assistance partially improved)	<p><b>Progress Keys:</b></p> <p><b>In progress – due to political climate of instability (see part 3: risks and assumptions)</b></p> <p><b>Report Results Achieved against Activity Results 3 Indicator(s):</b></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. Engagement of a Legislative Drafter consultant for 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> </ul>	

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	<p>3= Capacity partially improved</p> <p>4= Capacity largely improved</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 communities</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>	0	3	<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>Increased support from the citizenship to promote women’s political participation:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Support to actions (i.e. research on women’s political participation, see output 3.3 on page 6) to identify citizens’ perspectives on women’s role as political leaders and barriers that prevent women’s involvement in politics, with a view to enhance the ability and increase opportunities of women to participate in future electoral and political processes.</li> <li>• Increased awareness of secondary school students and teachers on issues faced by women in pursuing a leadership role in their communities and in politics through the 2018 Poster and Essay competition. A total of 170 participants (students and teachers) benefited from this activity with entries in the following categories: a) <b>Poster</b>- with a total of 37 participants (including 23 female) across all three categories (Junior, Senior and Teachers), and b) <b>Essay</b>- with a total of 133 participants (including 74 female) across all three categories aforementioned.</li> </ul> <p>Activities by SECSIP partners:</p>	<p>See list of participant submission to poster and essay competition</p> <p>Please view the <a href="#">link</a> below</p> <p><a href="https://drive.google.com/open?id=1LcALqgfgliu8gkP9Qmt7eciR1MhNTtGj">https://drive.google.com/open?id=1LcALqgfgliu8gkP9Qmt7eciR1MhNTtGj</a></p>

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				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>National Council of Women (NCW) conducted four (4) ToT activities targeting campaign managers of women in four provinces (Malaita, Isabel, Temotu and Honiara) intending to contest the National General Elections.</li> </ul>	
<b>OVERALL OUTPUT PROGRESS RESULTS</b>					
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					
<i>Progress Keys:</i>					
<i>On Track</i>					

**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	TBD	SECSIP CTA, Olga Rábade and SECSIP project coordinator specialist PISOETH VING, met with MASI CEO HILDA LAMANI to discuss MASI's project level of expenditure and delivery, currently on hold due to a restructuring plan of the organisation.
Village Technology Trust	Formal/ grantee	1 year	Ongoing activities with members of the Matangi Women's Association (15 females) for a video production on community stories regarding girls' education, traditional gender roles, and aspirations of female students.

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National Council of Women	Formal/ grantee	1 year	ToT in four provinces (see results section under output 5 in page 8)
MEHRD	Formal	ongoing	Calendar of activities for the 2018 School Election Project to be determined.

**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	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 adopt the necessary measures may fall short due to resource constraints in a timely fashion	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	Ongoing	Proposal for a plan to establish a graduate programme to increase human capacity in areas with high demand and needs.
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.	Monitoring & Evaluation plan produced by M&E expert to be implemented by UNV M&E officer.



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<p>Voter registration update does not enfranchise all eligible citizens or the data is lost</p>	<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>	<p>December 2017 to December 2018</p>	<p>Registration campaign launched to announce commencement of provincial registration process in Choiseul and Western Province</p> <p>Radio campaign from November to February to announce provincial registration process</p> <p>Registration process conducted in Choiseul and Western Province with production of final voters' lists.</p>
<p>Natural disasters that impact directly on stakeholder priorities and ability to implement and participate in activities under the project.</p>	<p>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.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>During the reporting period, no impact to project activities has been caused by natural disasters.</p>
<p>Political climate of instability hampers electoral reform efforts</p>	<p>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.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>Reform package experienced delays due to a 'motion of no confidence'. As a result, SECSIP II extended the engagement of the legal adviser/legislative drafter consultant to continue providing expert advice at every stage of the reform process, including tabling, passing and enacting of the Bills (during first quarter of 2018).</p>

**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.

- Contribution to the photo exhibition held in Mont des Arts, Brussels city centre on 18 February 2018. The exhibition presented photographs and success stories of EC-UNDP electoral projects implemented worldwide with EU funding. SECSIP Media and

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Elections Trainings and the School Elections Project were featured along with photographs of SECSIP supported activities contributing to increase visibility and awareness on the results achieved through the EU-UNDP partnership for the promotion of elections and democracy in Solomon Islands (See photo in annex section).

- At the activity level, SECSIP increased visibility of the Poster and Essay competition through the Telekom SMS blast service which delivered a text message to 65,000 recipients across all 10 provinces of the Solomon Islands<sup>1</sup>. The Secondary School Poster and Essay Competition closed the period of submissions on 28 February receiving a total of 170 applications experiencing a substantial increase over the inaugural edition held in late 2016 which had 42 entries.

**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.

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

Output	Activity Result	Planned Activities	Annual Budget USD	Amount Spent (Jan-March)	Balance
<b>Output 1</b>	<b>Sustainability of and inclusiveness of registration system enhanced</b>	-Engagement of Nepalese BVR experts -Procurement of BVR equipment	118,500	52,078.90	66,421.10
<b>Output 2</b>	<b>Enhanced capacity of SIEC to manage an electoral cycle</b>	-Graduate programme -Trainings -Assessments	1,179,500	7,662.86	1,171,837.14

<sup>1</sup> Choiseul - 5000, western - 5000, Isabel - 5000, Malaita – 10,000, Guadalcanal – 10,000, Renbel - 5000, Makira - 5000, Temotu-5000, central islands - 5000 and Honiara – 10,000.

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		-Construction of Data Centre			
<b>Output 3</b>	<b>Strategic ability of the SIEC to coordinate and conduct a voter/civic education enhanced</b>	-Engagement of Elections expert to produce a voter awareness programme. - Partnerships with CSOs	263,000	38,716.80	224,283.20
<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	76,000.00	0.83	75,999.17
<b>Output 5</b>	<b>Enhanced ability of women to act as leaders &amp; representatives</b>	-Poster and Essay competition -Research on women's political leadership and participation	317,000.00	104,811.22	212,188.78
<b>Project Management</b>			829,825	178,104.50	651,720.50
<b>GMS</b>			188,515	28,820.36	159,694.64
<b>TOTAL</b>			2,972,340.00	410,195.47	2,562,144.53