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Annual Report 2018

Strengthening the Electoral Cycle in the Solomon Islands Project (SECSIP II)



PROJECT INFORMATION

Project ID: 0010550

Project duration: July 2017 – 30 June 2020

Estimated Total Project Budget: USD 5,860,986 (3 year period)

UNDP Strategic Plan Component: Democratic Governance

2018 Budget:

January-December 2018 Work Plan (revised budget¹): USD 2,972,340

Implementing Partner: Solomon Islands Electoral Commission (SIEC)

Chief Technical Advisor: Olga Rábade

DONOR PARTNERS



¹ SECSIP Project Board on 28 August (AWP signed on 1 October 2017).

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LIST OF ACRONYMS

AWP	Annual Work Plan
BVR	Biometric Voter Registration
CEO	Chief Electoral Officer
CSO	Civil Society Organization
CTA	Chief Technical Advisor
EO	Electoral Office
EU	European Union
FAQs	Frequently Asked Questions
FIFA	International Federation of Association Football
IMEOC	Inter-Ministerial Electoral Operations Committee
MASI	Media Association of Solomon Islands
MOU	Memorandum of Understanding
MP	Member of Parliament
MWYCFA	Ministry of Women, Youth, Children and Family Affairs
NGE	National General Election
OA	Operations Adviser
PBM	Project Management Board
PPC	Political Parties Commission
PSU	Procurement Service Unit
PWD	Association of Persons with Disabilities
Q&A	Questions and Answers
RM	Registration Manager
RSIPF	Royal Solomon Islands Police Force
RO	Registration Officer
SECSIP	Strengthening the Electoral Cycle in the Solomon Islands
SIBC	Solomon Islands Broadcasting Corporation
SIEC	Solomon Islands Electoral Commission
SMS	Short Message Service
TOT	Training of Trainers
TSM	Temporary Special Measures
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
WPL	Women Participation and Leadership
WRAM	Women's Rights Action Movement
WSN	Women Support Network

I. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Strengthening the Electoral Cycle in the Solomon Islands Project (SECSIP) delivered an intense programme in the pre-election year.

An Electoral Risk Assessment was completed in June 2018 and identified the challenges of the general election suggesting strengthening mechanisms to anticipate and mitigate electoral related risks as well as identifying support priorities to be channelled through the project.

SECSIP commissioned a research on Women's Leadership and Political Participation in 10 selected constituencies. The study findings were discussed in the four-day national women leadership workshop held in August in presence of 60 national and international women leaders. Another 4-day capacity building workshop was organized for 35 women leaders in December 2018. These capacity building initiatives were a part of a three-phase action plan to improve the leadership and political participation of women. A Women Support Network and Technical Committee were formed and functional to ensure the effective implementation of this plan.

As a result of a MOU agreement with SI Electoral Commission, Political Parties Commission, Ministry of Home Affairs and Ministry of Public Service, SECSIP launched a one-year Graduate Programme. The programme is aimed as a temporary mechanism to support the structure of the 2 SECSIP national institutional partners the SI Electoral Office (EO) and the Office of the Registrar of the Political Parties. Seven Graduates were selected to work for the EO in the areas of voter awareness (2), human resources (1), logistics (1), field coordination (2) and IT (1). Three additional Graduates were engaged to support the Political Parties Commission as Legal, Research and Training Assistants.

SECSIP contributed to the improvement of operational management of the EO through the addition of technical expertise (Operations Adviser) essential for the development of a voter registration operational plan. The plan provided details on the location of voter registration centres, number and composition of teams, movement plans of staff and equipment. SECSIP Operations Adviser (OA) and the 2 Field Operation Graduates made a significant contribution to the enhancement of communications between the field and EO HQ particularly during the Objections and Public Hearings process. In line with the fundamental principles of rule of law, SECSIP proposed and designed registration objection forms to streamline the objection procedures. The new forms (annexed) detailed the grounds for those objections and contributed to the consistency and coherence of the Revising Officers decision-making process.

The project also contributed to the development of a detailed voter registration plan which included the assessment and procurement of available needs and resources

(human and equipment) to the EO. This was an important factor in the process of the successful completion of the provisional voter lists with 359,690 (174,607 Female) voters² including estimated 54,000 transferred voters. The construction of a new centre for database and results management consolidating SIEC operations at its premises. The enhancement of the information flow and analysis of statistical data contributed to the mapping of potential hot spots and the successful completion of the voter registration exercise.

The project identified and established agreements with civil society partners to facilitate face-to-face awareness actions reaching out to more than 10,522 people (47% women) in 147 communities across five provinces. Engagement with a private enterprise, SolRice helped the project to maximize outreach through its channel and networks around the country and helped distributing 110,000 voter registration awareness leaflets.

With respect to the electoral reform process, SECSIP engaged a legislative drafter to support the Electoral Reform Task Force. An Amendment to the Constitution Act and a new Electoral Act was passed in August and entered into effect on 7 and 25 September 2018 respectively.

A draft projection for the annual work plan for 2019 was endorsed by the Project Board during a meeting held on 7 December 2018. The estimated proposed budget for 2019 is USD 1.6 million.

² Final lists will be produced in early February 2019. Final lists in 2014 had 287,562 registered electors.

II. ACTIVITIES BY OUTPUT

OUTPUT 1: Sustainable voter registration system to strengthen the inclusiveness and integrity of the electoral cycle³

Key results

- Provision of technical expertise in support of the voter registration update in Choiseul and Western Province (3 consultants, Dec 2017-April 2018).
- Endorsed plan to enhance integrity and national ownership of the Biometric Voter Registration (BVR) system. SECSIP expertise identified the software deficiencies and options for enhancement of BVR sustainability in terms of hardware, software and human/technical needs.
- Long standing benefits resulting from procurement of BVR equipment.
- Construction of building annex as a dedicated space for the database centre to enhance the continuity of electoral operational effectiveness.

During the voter registration update for Choiseul and Western Province, the involvement of three SECSIP BVR consultants was instrumental to enable a more dependable functioning of the BVR system and contributed to the identification and recommendations for IT risk mitigation measures. These consultants provided technical advice and help desk assistance at field level and worked on daily maintenance of BVR equipment, including update and integration of data into the system as per request, and solutions to technical issues experienced by the EO IT department. They designed an electronic checklist form in order to conduct the verification process of the existing registration kits. Upon arrival of new BVR equipment in March 2018, BVR consultants conducted the technical inspection of the equipment including configuration and networking of the server and configuration of network switches and UPS.



Pic 01: People are waiting in the queue to cast their votes

³ Technical expertise provided until September 2018

SECSIP's technical assessment of BVR software identified software deficiencies and options for the enhancement of BVR sustainability in terms of hardware, software and human/technical needs. This involved assessment of needs in terms of replacement of obsolete equipment (including server equipment, spare parts, batteries for BVR kits, heavy duty printers, portable generators and laptops), software upgrades and training of core staff.

Upon endorsement of SECSIP plan by Chief Electoral Officer (CEO) in April 2018, the project proceeded with the engagement of a Senior BVR Adviser and a Software Developer. As of early June 2018, work progressed in accordance with SECSIP II Project Document and the endorsed work plans in close consultation with the Project Board members which included:

- Specifications, architecture and documentation for initial upgrade of software for automatic backups, data quality and integrity and on architecture and guidance for the necessary setup of the data-centre.
- Summary input needed to assist the establishment of SMS platforms for voter information as well as its operational support (as per request of CEO).
- Software upgrades (remote work by Software Developer expected to arrive in in July 2018).

The continuance of this technical work was then put in doubt by the decision by the EO to engage a commercial contractor to substantially do the same work as covered in SECSIP II endorsed plan.

From the perspective of this project such development was not expected. With a view to seek clarification, a meeting was held on 16 June and this was followed by a Project Board meeting on 22 June where questions were raised again as to what work the EO had planned to undertake with the engaged commercial contractor (ESI). On 1 July, Mr. Whelan (ESSP Advisor) sent an email to SECSIP Operations Consultant briefly outlining some possible ESI work options. On 4 July, another meeting was called by UNDP Country Manager and held with CEO, ESSP Adviser Whelan and SECSIP CTA on the UNDP position advising of the possible withdrawal of technical support given the contractual arrangement with the commercial vendor.

Given the EO's unilateral actions to bring another service provider on board for similar scope of work, the project in consultation with development partners discontinued the provision of the BVR technical expertise and terminated the contracts of the UNDP BVR experts. Such services are funded from donor resources entrusted to UNDP under this project, and UNDP must ensure they derive maximum value and impact without duplication. A letter to this effect was sent to CEO, Electoral Commissioners and development partners on 22 August 2018.

Follow up actions

Post 2019 national general election, there are some issues that would be advisable to be assessed with respect to BVR integrity and quality of the system. This should form part of post-election lessons learned activities and consideration should be given to the legal and political implications of the contractual BVR arrangement in terms of:

1. Foreign commercial contractor with access to treat highly sensitive sovereign data and whether such entity continues to have remote access with limited traceability of users.
 2. No appropriate data recovery policies and infrastructure. Severe political impact should there would be a crash in the system resulting in loss of data. Limited/no provisions for automatic backups and redundant sites been set up.
 3. Continuance of vendor lock situation with a commercial contractor and lack of national control over the system.
 4. No/limited technical support available in country for troubleshooting.
-

OUTPUT 2: More efficient and effective administrative procedures for the Solomon Islands Election Commission to fulfill its mandate

Key results

- Electoral Risk Assessment identified general election risks and made recommendations on measures to anticipate and mitigate risks and strengthen electoral capacities (the report can be accessed here: <https://drive.google.com/open?id=1fzCVfGagM16hRGtoCu99ycJr-5vCAoj2>).
- Successful launching of the Graduate Programme.
- Electoral operations expertise instrumental for the planning/implementation of electoral events. This involves the development of procedures, contingency planning and capacity building in connection with nomination, polling and counting.
- Identification, sourcing and ordering of electoral materials in preparation for 2019 election.
- Upgrade of the EO compound buildings and security.
- Technical monitoring of the voter registration update was conducted by civil society representatives.

Support to Electoral Operation

SECSIP contributed to improve the operational capacities of the EO by engaging an International Operations Adviser (OA). The expertise of this adviser has been an essential contribution to the effective management of electoral operations. The OA works closely with the SIEC Head of Operations providing technical advice and support in all operational aspects including planning, electoral procedures, field coordination, logistics, procurement, human resources and coordination with external actor, such as RSIPF. SECSIP support was instrumental to draft a comprehensive Operational Plan for Voter Registration adopted by the EO.

The Voter Registration operational plan provided a comprehensive explanation of the various phases of the Voter Register update. Regarding pre-poll for police the OA conducted several fact-finding meetings with the RSIPF. SECSIP team also engaged with the Association of Persons with Disabilities (PWD) with a view to assess possible measures to enhance the participation of this group.

The EO completed the voter registration process in accordance with the approved operational timeline. The last phase of this process was the Public Hearings to decide on the objections made to the provisional voters lists. The EO with technical support from SECSIP completed 16,500 Public Hearings held in 50 constituencies within 3 weeks. Ahead of Public Hearings, the project contributed to improve the capacities of 50 Revising Officers (8 female) by facilitating two sessions on operations communication and reporting, and media during a 4-day training organized by the EO.

SECSIP liaised with OXFAM to engage youth monitors resulting in a joint first-time action which enhanced the transparency and credibility of the voter registration process. SECSIP OA provided support to this action by developing technical guidelines and facilitating the training of the monitors jointly with the EO Senior Media and Voter Awareness Manager and an ESSP Adviser.

On 13 September 2018, the EO and RSIPF signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with a view to jointly implement operational aspects around electoral related security issues. SECSIP OA has regularly attended meetings on behalf of the EO. The MOU is designed to facilitate the pre-election coordination with the RSIPF. During Public Hearings, RSIPF established a Police Operation Centre served as a communication hub for areas where the Revising Officers faced challenges to send their reports. SECSIP Graduates played an important role in facilitating communication with the field which resulted in the production of useful quantitative reports. The support of the project was instrumental for the analysis of voter registration statistics that contributed to map out potential hot spots and assist in the identification of priorities and allocation of police resources.

Considering the recommendations outlined in the OA's paper on risks affecting the implementation of the election and operational timeline, the SIEC decided to recommend to the Governor General the setting of the 3rd April as Election Day. The OA prepared a draft guideline on the electronic application form for the candidate nomination.

Senior Electoral Adviser Carlos Valenzuela conducted three in-country missions in 2018 and provided advice that assisted in the identification of issues in connection with the planning of electoral events and related project support.

Procurement of electoral materials

Procurement process to source and order electoral materials was commenced in 2018 for delivery in early 2019 (ballot boxes, polling kits, indelible ink).

Graduate Programme

The capacity of the EO was significantly improved due to engagement of a National Human Resources Adviser and the engagement of 7 Graduates.

An Institutional Capacity Assessment commissioned by SECSIP in July/August 2016 illustrated that the structure of one-person units (e.g. in finance, voter awareness...) places the EO in a situation of vulnerability should there be a loss of that one person leaving no backup staff for the unit. In this context, SECSIP Phase II project document proposed to launch a Graduate Programme with a view to enhance the staff structure and contribute to the enhancement of technical skills. A Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) was signed in February 2018 by SIEC, PPC, Ministry of Home Affairs, Ministry of Public Services and the Office of the Prime Minister which established a framework of collaboration for this programme as a temporary mechanism expected to contribute to the enhancement of capacities and

sustainability of the partners organizations. Seven Graduates were selected and engaged to support the EO in the areas of voter awareness (2), IT (1), logistics (1), human resources (1), field coordination (2). It is expected that these Graduates will be considered for direct engagement by the national authorities under the civil service scheme.

Follow up actions

- Ongoing technical advice by OA for the preparation of 2019 electoral events (completion of 2019 voters lists, candidate nomination, polling, counting, announcement of results).
 - Lessons learned exercise to assess and identify strengths and weaknesses in connection with the 2019 national general election. The findings will inform future strategies for strengthening the capacities of the SI national electoral authorities.
 - Support the expansion and strengthening of the EO to enable the implementation of its mandate. The 2018 Electoral Act (EA) establishes that the EO will be responsible for voter registration and conduct elections for Provincial Assemblies. The EA also enables the EO to implement continuous voter registration. To this effect, the EO plans to establish a permanent field presence to carry out its expanded mandate.
 - Support in terms of technical advice to continue building institutional capacities such as field coordination, procurement, and other administrative procedures.
 - Identification and support to capacity building/formative action opportunities particularly in terms of electoral operations, finance/budgeting and leadership
 - Assessment of possible extension of some Graduate positions until June 2020 to progressively phase out the programme in parallel with expansion of the EO human resources structure.
-

OUTPUT 3: National authorities and local networks have better capacity to train and educate the population on voter awareness and civic engagement

Key results

- SECSIP engaged CSOs and religious groups for raising awareness on electoral issues in line with SIEC 2016-2019 Voter Awareness Strategy. Engaged CSOs conducted awareness actions with an estimated outreach of 10,522 (4,678 female) people from 147 communities of 5 provinces through face to face awareness activities.
- Increased outreach of voter awareness information utilizing an innovative dissemination mechanism in collaboration with a private sector company (SolRice). This led to the successful distribution of 110,000 voter registration awareness leaflets.
- SECSIP provided technical expertise and financial support to design and produce three TV commercials on voter registration aired during the Football World Cup. Given the popularity of the FIFA World Cup matches amongst Solomon Islanders, this was an excellent outreach opportunity.
- Logistical and financial support to the mock voter registration activity conducted during Kodili festival in Buala, Isabel Province (26-28 June).
- Other voter education tools supported and funded by SECSIP included the use of telephone hotline, radio advertisements, radio talkback shows, FAQs, posters, leaflets, manuals, booklet, pull up banner, etc.
- Comprehensive upgrade of SIEC website which resulted in a significant increase of users accessing information.

Face to face voter awareness activities

Aligned with multi-party voter awareness programme⁴, SECSIP contributed to improve the capacities and knowledge of communities for using different tools and media. Face to face awareness activities continued to be the more effective channel for awareness raising in communities.

'I used to take money in exchange of my vote in past, but I will not take it any more as I came to know the penalties/punishment for such offences through awareness campaign'.

Mentioned by a female voter of West Fatelekha, Auki, Malaita province.

⁴ In 2015 SECSIP commissioned an extensive survey to evaluate voter awareness. Respondents (73%) identified face to face awareness as the best way to communicate and this was also considered the most trusted source of electoral information (70%). The survey was instrumental for the development of Solomon Islands National Strategy on Voter Awareness 2016-2019 and the rolling out of UNDP micro-grant program to establish alliances with civil society organizations.

Through a competitive process, twelve CSOs⁵ were identified and received grants from SECSIP during 2017-18, enabling face-to-face voter awareness activities with 10,522 people from 147 communities in five provinces in 2018. Given the importance that the project places in the involvement with civil society, SECSIP engaged a national CSO Coordination Manager who commenced her duties as of October 2018. Extension were granted based on the performance assessment of the CSOs (MBOM in Isabel province, Stage of Change in Choiseul province, Tefila and Hearts of the Hope in Malaita province, GPCW in Guadalcanal province). The Coordinator also identified and completed the process to engage three additional CSOs to undertake awareness activities in three other provinces (Temotu, Makira, Ngella).

A voter registration flowchart was designed by SECSIP and provided a brief step by step guide on voter registration process from data-collection phase to finalization of voter lists. The brochures were distributed to the communities by CSOs and also made available at voter registration centres.

Awareness collaboration action with private sector

On 30 May 2018, SECSIP and SolRice, the country's leading distributor of rice, signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) to collaborate on a pro-bono basis for the dissemination of voter awareness materials. SolRice helped the project maximize outreach through its extensive distribution networks around the country by disseminating 110,000 voter awareness leaflets ahead of voter registration. The Association of People with Disabilities (PWD) supported this activity by inserting leaflets into the self-adhesive envelopes adhered to 40lb bags of rice.



Pic 02: Leaflet on voter registration affixed with SolRice bags.

The project also created a voter information fact sheet informing the steps involved in the voter registration campaign.

⁵ NCW, GPCW, SIALC, VTT, TEFILA, HOH, Destiny Global, MASI, TSI, SOC, Melanesian Board of Mission, FOC

Media and Voter Awareness Technical advice

The project engaged a National Media Consultant to support the communication team of the EO. This has contributed to expand outreach and have a stronger and more fluid communication with the electorate. An international consultant, expert in awareness was engaged in April 2018 to identify and design awareness actions and supporting materials.

In addition to traditional products (voter registration and how to vote posters, leaflets, stickers, banners and manuals), the project supported SMS blasts, radio drama, talkback shows with phone calls being taken by the CEO, TV spots encouraging voter registration aired during the FIFA World Cup and established of a telephone hotline to solve queries from the electorate. SECSIP also provided technical advice and graphic design to produce FAQs on the omission and objections process. The project helped in the logistics and distribution of a total of 829 posters to the same number of Public Inquiry Centers. Additional 53 posters were also pinned on the vessels/ferry and boats. Another tool to enhance voter awareness is the use of radio drama shows as an avenue to reflect and enhance knowledge of listeners on issues relating to voter registration, secrecy of the vote, role of women in politics. In this context, SECSIP supported and funded the radio drama 'Hanna's family' providing topics and suggestions for the scripts.

"We miss this kind of educational programmes. I see people are appreciating the very important role this series has in educating the public about government, democracy and how to vote wisely."

Jimmy Masa, a listener of radio drama shows on voter awareness sponsored by SECSIP aired on SIBC; East Kwaio, Honiara

The project engaged a national firm to conduct a comprehensive upgrade of the EO institutional website resulting in a more user friendly, interactive and secure site. The new site includes a search engine providing key information for the electorate to confirm names and ID numbers included in the final voters lists. This has resulted in a substantial increase of traffic and enhancement of transparency and accessibility of voter information.



Graph 1: Gradual increase of website visitors

SECSIP is implemented in partnership with the Solomon Islands Electoral Commission. It receives financial assistance from the Government of Australia, the European Union and UNDP

Follow up actions

- Ongoing support to other communication channels such as the upgraded website, face-book and social media to reach out the electorate particularly youth.
 - Leverage the success of SECSIP grant scheme with civil society, continue and expand array of civil society partners prioritizing involvement of people with disabilities (PWD) and youth.
 - Building on previous SECSIP actions to enhance youth voter awareness, design and implementation of a campaign targeting young citizens that will turn 18 in 2023.
 - Intensify current collaboration with key media partners (MASI and SIBC) contributing to a stronger media sector as an essential player for the consolidation of democracy.
-

OUTPUT 4: Electoral and legal reform supported to contribute to a stronger electoral commission and representative democracy

Key results

- Engagement of a Legislative Drafter by the project was instrumental to draft three Bills for Cabinet approval (Electoral Bill, Political Parties Integrity (Amendment) Bill, and Constitution (Consequential Amendment Bill) under the guidance of the Electoral Reform Task Force.
 - Technical advice to prepare the drafting instructions to facilitate the drafting of the voter registration regulations.
 - Revision of the objection to inclusion forms to provide details on the grounds for the objection and an indicative list of the evidence to be submitted in support of the objection.
 - Three Graduates support to the Political Parties Commission in the areas of legal, research and training. The work of the Graduates provided a significant support to enhance the socialization of the new Electoral Act and to raise awareness on the role of political parties in a democracy.
 - Enhanced knowledge and information sharing through the provision of South to South actions such as the Pacific Political Parties Conference held in Vanuatu in September 2018.
-

SECSIP contributed to electoral legal reform by engaging a legislative drafter who under the guidance of the Solomon Islands Electoral Task Force worked in the drafting of three bills (Electoral Bill, Political Parties Integrity (Amendment) Bill, and Constitution (Consequential Amendment) Bill).

The legal framework was finally passed by the National Parliament in the last week of August 2018 with the adoption of the Constitutional Amendment Act (22 August) and the new Electoral Act (24 August).

Upon adoption of the new Electoral Act, SECSIP contributed to the preparation of the subsidiary legislation via regulations. Of particular note was SECSIP proposal for the revision of administrative forms which led for the first time to the introduction of the grounds for voter registration objections facilitating a more consistent and coherent decision-making process during Public Hearings.

South to south / regional collaboration among political actors. SECSIP supported the organization, identification and logistics for the participation of the Solomon Islands delegation in the Pacific Political Parties Conference (Vanuatu, September 2018). Participation in these fora provided an avenue to analyse the legal framework of political parties and its impact on political stability for the consolidation of democracy. It also contributed to the sharing of information and experiences and to continue building networks of critical stakeholders from the Pacific region.

Follow up actions

- Support to the drafting of the electoral legislation as required (e.g. electoral subsidiary legislation to enhance the internal regulatory framework).
 - Continue to support the development of the legal framework of political parties (Political Parties Integrity Bill and regulations thereof).
 - Provision of technical assistance and capacity building support for the implementation of PPC's mandate.
 - Provide expert advice on options to introduce Temporary Special Measures (TSM) to enhance the representation of women in elected bodies (including for example in Provincial Assemblies and in senior levels of political and governmental institutions).
-

OUTPUT 5: Capacity of the SIEC to promote gender mainstreaming

Support to gender mainstreaming is addressed throughout all areas of project implementation contributing to enhance awareness of national authorities on women's political participation in voter registration, operations, media and legal aspects.

Key results

- SECSIP commissioned a research on Women's Leadership and Political Participation in 10 selected constituencies.
- Outreach maximized to secondary schools through the School Election Project and the Secondary School Poster and Essay Competition which provided an avenue for debate and awareness raising on topics related to women's political participation.
- Two four-day capacity building actions:
 1. Regional workshop on Women's Leadership and Political Participation (Honiara, August 2018),
 2. Workshop for Solomon Islands women leaders (December 2018).
- A Women Support Network and Technical Committee were formed and functional to ensure the effective implementation of a three phases action plan to improve the leadership and political participation of women. This plan was developed through a 2-day workshop organized on 25 and 26 July in Honiara.
- Provision of in country technical expertise of a national consultant and ongoing support with periodic in country missions of a senior international expert.

Research on women's political leadership and participation

SECSIP commissioned a research on Women's Leadership and Political Participation in 10 selected constituencies (annex C for justification of selection). The study analyses the leadership and political participation of women through, a) assessing the historical voting practices in constituencies as they relate to women candidates, b) characterising the type of voters who are more and less inclined to vote for women candidates and why this is the case, and c) identifying the factors that are considered as the most significant in limiting or enabling electoral success.

Support to women candidates

An action plan 2018-2019 to encourage women leadership and political participation was developed by Senior Expert Carlos Valenzuela based on 3 premises:

- (a) Need for long term nature of promotion of women political participation;
- (b) Recognition of positive effects of short-term actions if framed within a long term perspective;
- (c) Multi-layered approach, dealing simultaneously with various lines of action which include capacity building (pre-nomination and post-nomination trainings), working with media and resource support.

The plan has a three-phase approach (pre-nomination, nomination and post-election) prioritizing activities to contribute to the improvement of women's leadership and political skills for national and provincial elections.



Pic 03: Participants are presenting group works in the regional workshop (August 2018)

A first pre-nomination action was a four-day National Women's Leadership Workshop held in August 2018 and attended by 60 national and international women leaders from the Pacific region including former Prime Minister of New Zealand, Ms. Helen Clark, and other important leaders such as Dame Carol Kidu from Papua New Guinea and Hon. Salote Rarodro from Fiji. This was followed by a four-day capacity building workshop in December 2018 participated by 35 Solomon Islands women leaders including 24 intending candidates for the national general election. The workshop focused on issues related to democracy and the regulatory framework for elections, women public leadership at various levels and general aspects of women's confidence building and empowerment.

Supplementary activities aligned with this action plan was assistance provided for constituency profiling or the organization of meetings between women leaders with international stakeholders such as for the visit of a delegation comprised of New Zealand parliamentarians.

Poster and Essay competition⁶

Awareness raised for secondary school students and teachers on issues faced by women in pursuing a leadership role in their communities and in politics through the 2017-2018 Secondary School Poster and Essay on Women's Leadership and Political Participation. A total of 170 participants (students and teachers) benefited from this activity which received entries as follows:

⁶ News link of Essay and Poster competition:

EU Facebook Page: <https://www.facebook.com/EUSolomonIslands/posts/1754867181240312>

Solomon Islands Electoral Commission

<http://www.siec.gov.sb/index.php/journalist/133-2017-essay-poster-competition-on-women-s-leadership-political-participation>

The Island and Sun Web site: <http://theislandsun.com.sb/students-and-teachers-walk-away-with-laptops-and-mobiles/>

- a) Poster-37 participants (23 female),
- b) Essay-133 participants (including 74 female) across all three categories (Junior, Senior and Teachers).



Pic 04: A winner from Poster Competition (Junior student category)

The EU Ambassador HE Leonidas Tezapsidis presented the awards to the winners in senior student category. Quoting poster winner Rowena Morgan with her artwork 'break a barrier, raise a nation', the Ambassador expressed his support towards an inclusive society where both men and women work together to effectively overcome barriers and obstacles to lead the progress of their country.

The Australian High Commissioner, HE Roderick Brazier presented the awards to the secondary school teachers and made remarks on the importance of secondary school teachers as pillars of the society and their influence to motivate and encourage future leaders.

Follow up actions

- On-going support to women candidates through 2019 electoral events (national general election nomination and election both for parliamentary and provincial assembly elections. Concrete follow up actions include:
 1. Candidate schools,
 2. Setting of resource centers for women candidates for national and provincial elections.
- Post-election lessons learned exercise to be conducted as a tool to design longer term support. SECSIP in partnership with national and international actors will develop recommendations for longer term promotion of women's political participation. Particularly noting that results from efforts made in the Pacific region to promote women's political participation have been mitigated by limited duration and discontinuity.

- Continue with the identification of local power-brokers, setting up women candidate support committees and establishing linkages with local partner CSOs, church/faith groups and community leaders to raise awareness of gender equality and women’s empowerment.
- “Outstanding Women of Solomon Islands action”. The aim of this project is to identify the most outstanding women at community level across the country to empower and encourage reflection on women’s leadership and skills. Members of the community, village, town or church groups will be asked to vote for whom they think is the most outstanding woman in their community and explain why in a few words. Starting at community level and gradually building up, the objective is to draw out most outstanding women as they are identified through a voting process by both the men and women in their communities. The immediate impact will be to boost the confidence of the women in question. This will also grow appreciation for women and their role in the community.
- Subject to funds availability SECSIP action plan seeks to maintain its support until June 2020 to continue building an enabling environment to enhance women political participation.

III. MANAGEMENT AND TECHNICAL SUPPORT

Project Board Meeting (PBM)

Five Project Board Meetings were held during 2018. The **first meeting** was held on 8 March 2018. Update sharing, and discussions took place on issues such as electoral legal reform, ongoing activities of the EO, preparation for the pre-NGE and by-election, 2018 SECSIP support to EO, project financial shortfall, and joint SECSIP and EO timeline and project support. Among the participants there were CEO Mose Saitala, EO Head of Operation Freddie Bosoboe, European Union Delegation (EUD) Ambassador Leonidas Tezapsidis, EUD Programme Officer Brenda Joy Wara, AHC Counsellor Fiona Hoggart, AHC Second Secretary Narelle Hallion, UNDP CM Azusa Kubota, SECSIP CTA Olga Rabade, SECSIP Senior Electoral Adviser Carlos Valenzuela and other SECSIP staff.

The **second meeting** was held on 27 April 2018. After opening remarks by UNDP Country Office Manager Azusa Kubota, SECSIP CTA presented an update on by-elections, a timeline of BVR actions and activities and activities in preparation for the National General Elections. She presented a proposal to increase SECSIP budget in support of the elections.

In addition to the Board members Chairperson of the Commission Hon. Ajilon Nasiu; Permanent Secretary of MOHA, George Palua; and UNDP Country Office Manager Azusa Kubota; attendants included the Commissioner, representatives from project donors, ESSP, UNDP and project staff.

The **third meeting** was on 22 June 2018. During this meeting SECSIP requested clarification from SIEC on the expected arrival of BVR vendor ESI in the month of July. SECSIP CTA explained that a previous meeting had been held the CEO and ESSP Adviser Whelan on Saturday 16 June to discuss this issue—from SECSIP this meeting was attended by Operations and BVR Advisers as well as the Project Coordinator and CTA was intended to seek clarification on the scope and terms of reference of the engagement of the BVR vendor. The CTA considered that raising this issue with the Board was necessary so that it could be the subject of a round table discussion to consider the future of BVR support by the Project.

The CTA provided an update on the steps adopted by SECSIP in order to provide BVR support. The Project had presented alternatives on BVR support to the EO. The plan endorsed in April by the CEO had foreseen the provision of BVR technical support to deliver software upgrades that had been previously identified to enhance the BVR operation and mitigate security risks. The Project had then proceeded to engage the Senior BVR Adviser and the Software Developer. SECSIP Senior BVR Adviser was now in-country and as per the approved TORs and he had developed specifications and provided instructions to SECSIP Software Developer on the software upgrades previously identified. Further, as per the CEO plan to have a platform to enable to send information to the citizens included in the voters' roll via SMS, SECSIP Senior BVR Adviser had accompanied him to a meeting with TELEKOM and prepared an initial brief exploring the scope of this kind of arrangement.

With reference to the oral and written information referring to the engagement of the BVR vendor (ESI). The CTA invited an open discussion on the scope of any envisaged arrangement between the EO and the BVR vendor. No information in this respect was provided by the CEO. CTA noted that SECSIP would appreciate any available information with respect to the scope of BVR support to better coordinate and utilize SECSIP expertise to its full capacity. As no information was received on this issue from the CEO, there was no further discussion on this issue and the Board proceed to discuss the other agenda items.

During this meeting session, the Board also discussed the Electoral Risk Assessment Report commissioned by the Project and the reactivation of the IMEOC (Inter-Ministerial Electoral Operations Committee).

The **fourth meeting** was organized on 28th August to discuss proposed grants with identified CSOs, extra-costs incurred for the delivery of batteries (BVR Kits), SECSIP supports to Biometric Voter Registration, update on project implementation, and project budget revision. After opening remarks by Azusa Kubota, UNDP Country Manager, SECSIP CTA provided a presentation on comparative assessment of proposals from potential CSOs to conduct the face to face awareness activities in line with SIEC Awareness Strategy. She informed that 6 grantees were identified including 3 CSOs worked previously with the project. She presented their proposed working approach, locations, and budget to the members. The CEO confirmed his interest in this possibility and noted to provide guideline and orientation to the CSOs before

awareness activities roll out. CTA also provided a presentation with a detailed timeline on the issues surrounding the extra costs arisen for the timely delivery of batteries for BVR kits.

Regarding SECSIP support to BVR, CTA referred to UNDP position on the provision of technical support for BVR. The position on withdrawal of BVR technical support had been communicated by UNDP CM to the CEO in a meeting held on 4 July 2018 as a result of decision made by the EO to engage a BVR vendor to provide technical advice and services initially foreseen to be delivered by SECSIP experts.

CTA updated the board about the delivery rate of the project and revised AWP 2018. She explained the main changes being proposed in the AWP. The revised AWP endorsed by the PBM. The CEO then provided an update on the adoption of the electoral bill passed by the parliament on 24 August 2018. He noted that pursuant to the new bill, the EO will expand its mandate to include provincial elections.

In addition to the Board members CEO, Moses Saitala; and UNDP Country Manager, Ms. Azusa Kubota; attendants included the SIEC Commissioner, Taeasi Sanga, representative of the Australian High Commission (Second Secretary, Narelle Hallion and Senior Programme Officer, Natalina Hong,), ESSP advisers (Phil Whelan and Walter Rigamoto), UNDP Effective Governance Team Leader, Jane Waetara; SECSIP CTA S, Olga Rábade; SECSIP OA, Muammer Mrahorovic; and SECSIP PC Pisoth Ving.

The **fifth meeting** was on 7 December 2018. After the opening remarks from UNDP CM, CEO provided an update on the activities of the EO, in particular, update on public hearing, funding status, operational aspects of EO, future activities in terms of new Electoral Act, support from AEC, etc. During overview of SECSIP support, Project Coordination informed the board about procurement update including arrival dates of polling materials to the meeting attendees. Update on CSOs face to face awareness activities was mentioned by Coordination Manager. Recommendations provided to extend the contracts of 5 CSOs was endorsed by the Board. Following the sharing of findings from field monitoring visit, UNDP CM suggested to include those in the quarterly progress report. SECSIP CTA then updated the attendees about a 4 days women leadership training.

CTA referred to SECSIP multiyear estimated budget of USD \$ 5.8 million expected for the project period of implementation of July 2017 - June 2020 and presented a summary of the financial contributions. CTA also mentioned the financial shortfall has an impact on allocation of resources throughout the project period. She then presented the draft projection for the 2019 budget to the Board. Considering the balance of funds available and those yet to be disbursed, the proposed budget presents a financial shortfall of approximately USD 90,000. SECSIP CTA presented a proposal for a total budget of USD 1.6 million (GMS included). The Board endorsed the AWP 2019.

Funding shortfall of the project was also discussed in this meeting. The CEO acknowledged the positive contribution and support of SECSIP to the implementation of the mandate of the EO. CEO is willing to bring to the attention of development partners the current and upcoming needs of the EO and the importance to fill the funding shortfall. CM suggested to summarize the points noted by the CEO and work with the team to see how can both approach traditional and non-traditional development partners as soon as possible.

In addition to Board members presence with CEO, Moses Saitala, and UNDP Country Manager, Azusa Kubota, attendants also included the SIEC Commissioner, Taeasi Sanga and representatives of the Australian High Commission ESSP and SECSIP.

Draft Annual Work Plan (AWP) 2019

SECSIP CTA with the assistance of Project Coordinator prepared a draft annual work plan for 2019. The total estimated budget for 2019 is USD \$ 1.6 million. SECSIP Project Board endorsed the plan following its presentation by CTA on 7 December 2018. Some key activities planned for four outputs are: operational support to the EO, face-face awareness and voter education activities, support to upgrade physical infrastructure of EO, support to media and communication, women participation and political leadership, etc.

IV. EXPENDITURE

Outputs	Total Budget USD	Total Expenditure USD
Output 1: Sustainable voter registration system created to strengthen the inclusiveness and integrity of the electoral cycle	118,500	118,500
Output 2: Enhanced capacity of the SIEC to manage an electoral cycle	1,179,500	999,919.76
Output 3: National authorities and local networks have better capacity to train and educate the population on voter awareness and civic engagement	263,000	247,201
Output 4: Electoral and legal reform supported	76,000	38,679
Output 5: Capacity of the SIEC to promote gender mainstreaming	317,000	329,998
Project Management	1,018,340	908,735
Sub-total	2,972,340	2,643,035
Rate of delivery after sub-total		89%
Total Commitment		319,916
TOTAL utilization with commitment		2,962,951
Rate of delivery after total utilization with commitment		99.68%
Carry over balance to 2019		9,389

V. RISK LOG

Risk	Mitigation Action	Timeframe	Progress of Mitigation Action (s)
<p>Engagement of stakeholders by the Electoral Commission is not as extensive as originally envisaged</p>	<p>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.</p> <p>Activating inter agency coordination body, IMEOC for better coordination of national general election</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>Partnerships established with CSOs, religious/faith groups and private sector to enhance outreach of voter awareness and dissemination of supporting materials. Efforts have been made to build CSO capacity through periodical meetings and, one to one coaching.</p> <p>Grant support to CSOs is expected to continue until April/May 2019.</p> <p>IMEOC. In line with SECSIP PRODOC and the Election Assessment conducted in May-June 2018, a proposal for the revision of the charter for the Inter-Ministerial Electoral Operations Committee (IMEOC) was conducted in 2018. The focus is to reactivate this body as a transversal mechanism to facilitate the coordination amongst state agencies in support of electoral needs. CEO support the establishment of this mechanism. It is expected that IMEOC will be reactivated in early 2019</p>
<p>The amendments of the Electoral Legal Framework are passed by Parliament close to the election. EO capacity and resources to adopt subsidiary legislation</p>	<p>Electoral Office (EO) has adequate capacity to react and mitigate/manage the situation including through the coordinated actions of multilateral and bilateral</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>SI parliament passed the three bills in Aug 2018 (7 months before national general election) as a part of electoral reform. SECSIP support included the engagement of a Legislative Drafter who was working with the Task Force for drafting these bills for</p>

<p>and develop necessary measures for implementation of electoral events in compliance with legal framework may fall short due to resource constraints in a timely fashion</p>	<p>support and technical advice of the EO staff</p>		<p>Cabinet approval (Electoral Bill, Political Parties Integrity (Amendment) Bill, and Constitution (Consequential Amendment) Bill).</p> <p>SECSIP provided technical advice contributing to the preparation of drafting instructions for voter registration regulations.</p> <p>To streamline the voter registration complaint process and enhance consistency of decision-making by revising officers, SECSIP proposed and designed voter registration objection forms detailing grounds and providing a non-exhaustive list of possible documentary evidence. Forms were submitted and approved by the SI Electoral Commission</p>
<p>Capacity constraints in key institutions: SIEC, PPC, and EOC in the Ministry of Home Affairs to implement and participate in project activities</p>	<p>Careful and pragmatic prioritisation, planning and sequencing of project activities together with stakeholders to achieve that.</p> <p>Capacity building support to relevant institutions.</p> <p>Ensure the scope of activities and terms of references are endorsed by stakeholders.</p>	<p>On-going</p>	<p>SECSIP engaged an Electoral Operations Adviser who commenced work with EO from June 2018. Ongoing support will continue in the lead up to the national general election and during lessons learned exercise. The adviser works closely with EO Head of Operations in the planning and implementation of election events.</p> <p>Total 10 graduates engaged with (7) EO and (3) PPC in different capacities to address capacity constraints.</p>

<p>Voter registration update does not include all eligible citizens</p> <p>Significant number of cross-constituency voter registration</p>	<p>The roll has not been updated since 2014 (partial update conducted in 2017 limited to Western Province and Choiseul). Citizens who have turned out 18 (an important segment of the voting population) need to be included.</p> <p>Vagueness of 'ordinarily resident' Those who have deceased have to be deleted from the roll.</p> <p>SECSIP Phase II will endeavour to support EO 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 2018/January 2019</p>	<p>Voter registration was completed in September 2018 with a number of registration activities higher than expected due to cross-constituency entries. Objection and omission period ended on 29 November following the registration in September (approx. 16,433 objections). Trainings for Revising Officers prioritized case scenarios particularly those with respect to criteria for 'ordinarily residence'. Public hearings on claims were completed on 23 December 2018. Final lists to be published in January 2019. It is estimated that 95% of eligible voters will be on the final lists.</p> <p>More detailed objection forms contributed to the consistency and coherence of the decision-making process, as well as build the knowledge of the electorate with respect to the objection process and assist the SIEC for lessons learned exercises.</p> <p>In addition to face to face conducted with CSO partners, SECSIP support to voter registration awareness has included media actions through radio, SMS, and production and dissemination of leaflets, banners, booklets, posters. Project has supported the telephone hotline and the upgrade of the SIEC website facilitating access to voter information. Supplementary actions targeting youth had included school elections project and secondary school poster and essay competition,</p>
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<p>As elections become more moneyed and contested, there is a potential that some candidates may be tempted to resort to more aggressive campaign tactics.</p>	<p>Account for the potential for more contested elections at the electorate level. Reflect this potential in election planning arrangements, including strengthening local-level situation awareness and ensuring robust protocols for the communication of local risk assessments to electoral authorities.</p>	<p>April 2019</p>	<p>EO signed a MOU with RSIPF (September 2018) to facilitate coordination of electoral related security issues in the lead up to the 2019 national general election. The EO supported by SECSIP continues to maintain close communication and collaboration with RSIPF.</p> <p>SECSIP supported the EO in the establishment of a field coordination mechanism which enhanced communication and reporting during voter registration and election preparation phase.</p> <p>Two of SECSIP Graduates were engaged and dedicated to this role.</p> <p>SECSIP has supported engagement with media actors included MASI and supported workshops on electoral related issues for media professionals in Honiara and in the provinces particularly well received by provincial free-lance professionals frequently overlooked.</p>
<p>If there is increasingly contested electoral environment means that some incumbents will be likely to focus on issues of poor electoral</p>	<p>Ensure electoral preparations adequately account for the potential of increased local contestation. Ensure this recognition is reflected in robust electoral preparations including training and logistical</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>SECSIP Operations Advisor continues to work with EO Head of Operation to timely implement electoral operational plan. As part of a joint action (Australian Electoral Commission, ESSP and SECSIP), formative actions have been provided to enhance</p>

administration as a basis for contesting elections. This will place electoral authorities under a greater degree of pressure and may politicise electoral processes	arrangements so that electoral officials will be better placed to respond to pressures applied by candidates		capacities of Registration Officers, Election Managers, Revising Officers. To build transparency and commitment of relevant officials, a pledge certificate and ceremony was designed by SECSIP and introduced as part of the trainings. These officers will then conduct cascade training actions for polling staff.
Election-related violence can be expected to be localised in origin.	Local communities, and key local institutions such as churches, will have an important role to play in helping manage election related conflict and electoral preparations should consider how to engage and incorporate communities into election planning and security arrangements. Security planning should account for this possibility and include a sufficient focus on police training and community outreach as part of election-related security operations.	Ongoing	Local CSOs and religious groups continue to be engaged and play an important role on raising awareness on security related issues. Information sharing mechanisms through Joint Operation Center established under MOU between RSIPF and EO are in place. SECSIP supports the mechanisms to facilitate the coordination of information sharing between the two institutions.
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	There was no natural disaster during the reporting period. Section 61 of the 2018 Electoral Act grants the Commission the power to defer part of an election due to any unforeseen natural or man- made reasons.

<p>Political climate of instability hampers electoral reform efforts</p>	<p>SECSIP II provided technical support to the Electoral Reform Task Force in its role as an advisory body for the electoral and political reform contributing to the adoption of the new Electoral Act. 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>Stable political situation is observed during this reporting period.</p>
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ANNEX

A) Front page of Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

EXHIBITION, OMISSION AND OBJECTIONS PERIOD

FAQs

Frequently Asked Questions



WHEN is the Exhibition, Omissions and Objections Period?

KEY DATES	Always check SIEC website in case of date changes www.siec.gov.sb
29 Oct - 20th Nov	<i>The Provisional Voter List will be exhibited (displayed) in Voter Registration Centres in all constituencies around the country. The Provisional Lists will remain on display until 20th November.</i>
7th Nov - 20th Nov	Omissions and Objections period.
7th Nov :	Start of Exhibition and Objections period. You may file an objection from this day.
20th Nov :	Last day for filing a claim of Omission or a notice of Objection.
25th Nov - 1st Dec	<i>List of Omissions and Objections is published in the Voter Registration Centres and media outlets.</i>
1st Dec - 3rd Dec	<i>Locations of where the Public Enquiry will take place are published in the Voter Registration Centres</i>
4th Dec - 23rd Dec	<i>Public Enquiries are conducted.</i>

WHAT does Exhibition mean?

Exhibition means to show, to display. This is when the Provisional Voter List is pinned up in the Voter Registration Centre so everyone can go and check if their name is on the list and is correctly spell. If there is a problem with your name, you must report it right away, fill in **Form D** and ask for a correction.

If you see a name on the list that you think should not be there, you may file an objection if you are a registered voter.

WHAT does Omission mean?

Omission means "left out." If you registered but your name does not appear on the list, it is an omission. You must report it. You must fill in **Form D** showing your Voter Registration ID and ask that your name be included on the list.

Form D is called Objection to Omission from the list of voters.

WHAT does Objection mean?

If you are a registered voter and see a name on the list that you think should not be there, you can raise a complaint, or an objection to that name being included on the voter list. You must fill in **Form E** called "Objection to Inclusion on the voter list."

It is used to lodge an objection to someone's name being on the Voter List when they are not entitled to.

B) Public Hearings Data

Province	SUMMARY REPORT ON OBJECTIONS AND OMISSIONS				TOTAL PUBLIC HEARINGS				Flag for remaining	
	Constituency	Form D	Form E	Total	Omissions	Objections	Total	Remaining		
Malaita	Baegu / Asifola	84	93	177	84	93	177	0	0%	Completed
	Central Kwara'ae	0	151	151	0	151	151	0	0%	Completed
	Auki/Langalanga	1	578	579	1	578	579	0	0%	Completed
	East Kwaio	9	192	201	9	192	201	0	0%	Completed
	East Malaita	3	143	146	3	143	146	0	0%	Completed
	East Are'Are	3	178	181	3	178	181	0	0%	Completed
	Fataleka	69	705	774	69	705	774	0	0%	Completed
	Lau/Mbaelelea	11	134	145	11	134	145	0	0%	Completed
	North Malaita	1	229	230	1	229	230	0	0%	Completed
	Small Malaita	67	145	212	67	145	212	0	0%	Completed
	West Are'Are	1	255	256	1	255	256	0	0%	Completed
	West Kwaio	7	124	131	7	124	131	0	0%	Completed
West Kwara'ae	59	206	265	59	206	265	0	0%	Completed	
Outer Malaita	0	281	281	0	281	281	0	0%	Completed	
Totals		315	3,414	3,729	315	3,414	3,729	0	0%	Closed
Choiseul	Constituency North West Choiseul	1	77	78	0	78	78	0	0%	Completed
	East Choiseul	0	44	44	0	44	44	0	0%	Completed
Totals	South Choiseul 3	3	142	145	0	145	145	0	0%	Completed
		4	263	267	0	267	267	0	0%	Closed
Western	Constituency South Vella La Vella	0	233	233	0	233	233	0	0%	Completed
	Simbo/Ranonga	0	69	69	0	69	69	0	0%	Completed
	Gizo / Kolombangara	4	2,183	2,187	4	2,183	2,187	0	0%	Completed
	North Vella La Vella	0	213	213	0	213	213	0	0%	Completed
	West New Georgia / Vonavona	0	185	185	0	185	185	0	0%	Completed
	Marovo	2	198	200	0	200	200	0	0%	Completed
	North New Georgia	0	27	27	0	27	27	0	0%	Completed
South New Georgia/Rendova/Tetepari	0	219	219	0	219	219	0	0%	Completed	
Totals	Shortlands 9	1	28	29	1	28	29	0	0%	Completed
		7	3,355	3,362	5	3,357	3,362	0	0%	Closed
HCC	Constituency Central Honiara	17	1,458	1,475	17	1,458	1,475	0	0%	Completed
	East Honiara	7	316	323	0	323	323	0	0%	Completed
	West Honiara	0	950	950	0	950	950	0	0%	Completed
Totals	3	24	2,724	2,748	17	2,731	2,748	0	0%	Closed
Rennell & Bellona	Constituency Rennbell	31	216	247	31	216	247	0	0%	Completed
	Totals	1	31	216	247	31	216	247	0	0%
Central province	Ngella	96	418	514	96	418	514	0	0%	Completed
Totals	Russel/Savo 2	0	822	822	0	822	822	0	0%	Completed
		96	1,240	1,336	96	1,240	1,336	0	0%	Closed
Guadalcanal	Constituency NW Guadalcanal	0	379	379	0	379	379	0	0%	Completed
	West Guadalcanal	2	484	486	2	484	486	0	0%	Completed
	South Guadalcanal	11	106	117	11	106	117	0	0%	Completed
	East Guadalcanal	4	177	181	4	177	181	0	0%	Completed
	East Central Guadalcanal	19	227	246	19	227	246	0	0%	Completed
	North East Guadalcanal	122	244	366	122	244	366	0	0%	Completed
North Guadalcanal	18	670	688	6	682	688	0	0%	Completed	
Totals	Central Guadalcanal	32	236	268	32	236	268	0	0%	Completed
	8	208	2,523	2,731	196	2,535	2,731	0	0%	Closed
Makira	Constituency Ulawa Ugi	17	134	151	17	134	151	0	0%	Completed

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	West Makira	0	167	167	0	167	167	0	0%	Completed
	Central Makira	23	183	206	23	183	206	0	0%	Completed
Totals	East Makira 4	9	190	199	9	190	199	0	0%	Completed
		49	674	723	49	674	723	0	0%	Closed
					0	0	0	0		
Isabel	Constituency HogranoKiaHavule	17	233	250	17	233	250	0	0%	Completed
	MaringeKokota	21	168	189	21	168	189	0	0%	Completed
	Gao Bugotu	13	124	137	13	124	137	0	0%	Completed
Totals	3	51	525	576	51	525	576	0	0%	Closed
Temotu	Temotu Nende	6	277	283	6	277	283	0	0%	Completed
	Temotu Pele	31	275	306	31	275	306	0	0%	Completed
	Temotu Vatud	24	101	125	24	101	125	0	0%	Completed
Totals	3	61	653	714	61	653	714	0	0%	Closed
Grand total	50	846	15587	16433	821	15612	16433	0	0%	

C. Rationale for selecting 10 constituencies for a research on women leadership and political participation

Province	Rationale	Constituencies (proposed)	Rationale
Isabel	Previous research has characterised Isabel as relatively favourable to women's leadership. There is comparatively high female candidate participation in Isabel and women candidates quite competitive. Traditional leadership roles are more frequently afforded to women in Isabel.	Gao Bugotu & Maringe Kokota	Gao Bugotu has had a high share of female candidates and they have performed quite well in some instances. Maringe/Kokota has had a similar level of female participation but performance has been considerably worse
Honiara	Previous research has shown attitudes to women in leadership are mixed in Honiara. However, Honiara is one of the parts of the country with the highest percentage of female candidates, and female electoral participation is rising. Some women candidates have been quite competitive.	East Honiara & Central Honiara	In recent elections there have been few women candidates in East Honiara and they have not been at all competitive. Female candidate participation in has been much higher in Central Honiara (the second highest nationally). Some female candidates have been quite competitive in Central Honiara (including candidates who were not sitting MPs).
Guadalcanal	Previous research has shown Guadalcanal to be largely supportive of women in leadership roles. The province has also had higher than average % of women candidates. Guadalcanal is also home to the one female MP to be re-elected multiple times and has a matrilocal culture, which may offer a degree of additional empowerment to women.	East Central Guadalcanal & North West Guadalcanal	East Central Guadalcanal is home to Solomon Islands' most successful female MP. However, no other woman has ever stood there. North West Guadalcanal has had a higher share of female candidates than most electorates in the province, although they have only been fairly weakly competitive.

Malaita	Previous research has shown Malaita to have some negative views regarding the roles of women in leadership, and generally in many Malaitan communities are thought to be strongly patriarchal. Only a small share of candidates who have stood in elections in Malaita have been women. Most of those who have stood have performed poorly; however, a subset of candidates have performed well.	Fataleka & Lau/Mbaelelea	These are adjacent electorates, and reasonably accessible. Only 1 woman has ever stood in Lau/Mbaelelea, and this was in 1993. Four women have stood in the last 3 general elections in Fataleka.
Western	Previous research has shown Western Province to have comparatively positive attitudes to women candidates and women in leadership. Yet, female candidates have been comparatively rare in Western province (only just over 3% of candidates since independence). This has been changing with female candidate numbers trending upwards (6% of candidates in the last 3 elections were women). Female candidates have not performed particularly well to-date in Western Province.	West New Georgia & North Vella Lavella	West New Georgia is the electorate in Western Province where female candidates have been most competitive (compared to the average candidate). West New Georgia has also had the highest number of female candidacies in the province. North Vella Lavella is the electorate where they have been least competitive (compared to the average candidate). Female candidacies have been rare in North Vella Lavella.
Choiseul	Previous research has shown Choiseul to be amongst the most negative towards women in leadership. It also has one of the lowest rates of female candidates. The small number of women candidates who have stood have fared poorly.	North West Choiseul & South Choiseul	Choiseul has had very low female candidate participation. The only two women to have ever stood there stood in the last two elections and stood in NW Choiseul. South Choiseul is adjacent to NW Choiseul. To-date, no women have ever stood there.
Central	Previous research shows attitudes to women in leadership is largely negative.	Ngella & Russells/Savo	Central is a small province, with only these two electorates. Female participation as candidates has been quite low. Only one woman has ever stood in Russells/Savo. Ngella, however, has been home to some of the strongest woman candidates to have stood in recent years.

d) List of Winners

Category	Winners
Junior Student	<p>POSTER</p> <p>Female winner: Danielle Baura (Woodford Int) Female runner-up: Jayleen R Qoqonokana (King George VI) Male winner: Philemon Akao (Bishop Epalle) Male runner-up: Malachi Sore Jnr (Betikama Adventist Coll)</p> <p>ESSAY</p> <p>Female winner: Christolyn Dii (Norman Palmer) Female runner-up: Azalyn Naqu (FYCS) Male winner: Ricky Fairamo (FYCS) Male runner-up: Albert Hile (Norman Palmer)</p>
Senior Student	<p>POSTER</p> <p>Female winner: Rowena Morgan (King George) Female runner-up: Indere Howell (Betikama Ad college) Male winner: John Garo Jnr (Bishop Epalle) Male runner-up: Shaun Belo (Florence Young)</p> <p>ESSAY</p> <p>Female winner: Lois Toramo (Mbokonavera) Female runner-up: Whitney I'io, (Auki High School) Male overall winner: Eugene Talairamo (Bishop Epalle) Male runner-up: Emmanuel Joseph Araha (Bishop Epalle)</p>
Teachers	<p>POSTER</p> <p>Female winner: Sarah Houkura (Tuaruhu) Female runner-up: Karen Paul (Jones Adventist College) Male winner: Samuel Hou (Sarawasi CHS) Male runner-up: Richard Ngatulu (Betikama Ad College)</p> <p>ESSAY</p> <p>Female overall winner: Rufina Katovai (Betikama) Female runner-up: Gwenly Tutuo (Jones Adv College) Male winner: Simon W Mau (Kilusakwalo) Male runner-up: Joseph Losi (Choiseul Bay PSS)</p>

e) SECSIP Fact Sheet





SECSIP is implemented in partnership with the Solomon Islands Electoral Commission. It receives financial assistance from the Government of Australia, the European Union and UNDP.

STRENGTHENING THE ELECTORAL CYCLE IN THE SOLOMON ISLANDS PROJECT (SECSIP)

Project focus: Provision of United Nations electoral technical assistance to support the sustainability and credibility of electoral processes in the Solomon Islands. Since 2013 SECSIP assists the electoral authorities, particularly the Electoral Office and Political Parties Commission, in the timely and effective implementation of their mandate contributing to provide an enabling environment for democratic development.

Background: Following the request of the Solomon Islands Government (SIG) to receive UN electoral technical assistance, an initial Needs Assessment Mission (NAM) was deployed in September 2012. The endorsement of the findings and recommendations of the NAM informed the project formulation rolled out in July 2013. In 2015, another NAM was deployed in response to a second request of SIG seeking the continuity of UN assistance. This resulted in the extension of SECSIP I until June 2017 and the formulation of a second project phase with an expected duration of 3 years ending in June 2020.

Implementation period:
 Phase I July 2013-June 2017
 Phase II July 2017-June 2020

Key outputs:

1. Sustainability and inclusiveness of Biometric Voter Registration.
2. Supporting the capacity of the electoral national authorities to manage an electoral cycle.
3. Enhancing the capacities of national authorities & local networks to train and conduct voter and civic awareness.
4. Support to electoral, legal and administrative reform
5. Promotion of women's leadership and political participation

Partners:

- Solomon Islands Electoral Office (SIEC) and its Secretariat, the Electoral Office.
- Political Parties Commission (PPC) and the Office of the Registrar of the PPC.

SECSIP has established key alliances with other partners:

- MEHRD, MWYFA, RSIPF
- Civil society organizations: NCW, GPCW, SIALC, VTT, TEFILA, HOH, Destiny Global, MASI, TSI, SOC, Melanesian Board of Mission, FOC, TCCDA,
- Private sector: SolRice.

Estimated budget (Phase II): USD 5,860,986
 Resource mobilised: USD 5,085,718 (Australia: 2,486,732; EU: 2,048,985; UNDP: 550,000)
 Shortfall: USD 775,267
 Annual delivery chart (Phase I and Phase II):




Chart showing the project budget and shortfall






Poster from Essay and Poster Competition



Electing the Members of Parliament



School mock election

SECSIP is implemented in partnership with the Solomon Islands Electoral Commission. It receives financial assistance from the Government of Australia, the European Union and UNDP

f) Overall Results of SECSIP



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

KEY RESULTS



Launching of BVR

Sustainability and inclusiveness of the biometric voter registration (BVR) system: Ouput 1**

- Biometric Voter Registration (BVR) expertise which identified software deficiencies and options for enhancement of BVR sustainability in terms of hardware, software and human/technical needs.
- Timely intervention of SECSIP expert mitigating risk of loss of BVR data due to system failure occurred in October 2017.
- Long standing benefits resulting from procurement of equipment (server equipment, spare parts, batteries for BVR kits, heavy duty printer, generators, laptops) and construction of database and results management centre to enhance continuity of electoral operational effectiveness.

** Technical expertise provided until August 2018

Supporting the capacity of the electoral national authority to manage an electoral cycle: Ouput 2

- Electoral Risk Assessment exercise conducted in June 2018. This assessment provided a critical tool for the identification of main electoral related risk factors and made recommendations on mitigation measures and mechanisms.
- Ongoing provision of electoral operations expertise instrumental for the planning/implementation of electoral events: Gizo-Kolombangara by-election; 2018 voter registration data capture, objections and public hearings (approx. 14,000); completion of the 2019 electoral roll (359,523 registrants). This involves the development of procedures, contingency planning and capacity building in connection with nomination, polling and counting.
- Key support to the coordination between the Electoral Office (EO) and Royal Solomon Islands Police Forces (RSIPF).
- 2018-2019 Graduate Program which identified and engaged 7 highly qualified staff providing key support in the areas of field operations, Information Technology (IT), logistics, human resources and voter awareness.



Gizo-Kolombangara By-election



Training of Returning Officers

*Following the request of the national authorities, UNDP launched its electoral assistance project (SECSIP I, July 2013-June 2017). This was followed by a successive project (SECSIP II, July 2017 to June 2020) to support the enhancement of the national electoral capacities in preparation for the 2019 general elections and post electoral activities.



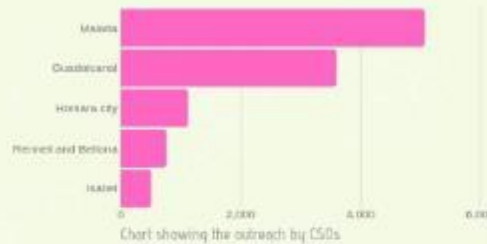
SECSIP

KEY RESULTS

Enhancing the capacities of National authorities and local networks to train and educate on voter awareness: Output 3

I used to take money in exchange of my vote in past, but I will not take it any more as I came to know the penalties/punishment for such offences through the awareness campaign.

Mentioned by a female voter of West Fataleka, of Auki, Malaita Province



- Civil society.** In 2015 SECSIP commissioned an extensive survey to evaluate voter awareness. Respondents (73%) identified face-to-face awareness as the best way to communicate and this was also considered the most trusted source of electoral information (70%). The survey was instrumental for the development of Solomon Islands National Strategy on Voter Awareness 2016-2019 and the rolling out of UNDP micro-grant program to establish alliances with civil society organizations. Through a competitive process, twelve CSOs* were identified and received grants from SECSIP during 2017-18, enabling face-to-face voter awareness activities to reach out to 15,000 people across five provinces.
- Youth.** In partnership with MEHRD, some 7000 students benefited from the support of SECSIP to the School Election Project which was implemented in five schools in Isabel and Guadalcanal provinces (October -November 2017). This project included session on good governance principles and conducted mock elections fostering a better understanding of teachers and youth on democracy and electoral processes.

The mock election activity helped me to understand better the election process and gave me confidence to walk inside the polling station to cast my vote when I reach my voting age.

Henry Mamala, Senior Student, Angaiho Community High School, Bellona Island



School mock election project

- Media.** As a successive step to the MoU between the Media Association of Solomon Islands (MASI), the EO and SECSIP, a micro-grant agreement was established in July 2017. The focus of this collaboration has been knowledge building on electoral related aspects. Building on the 8 successful training sessions for Honiara media professionals held in April-May 2017, SECSIP supported the first ever election media training conducted for provincial media professionals. A total of 199 media professionals benefited from these trainings jointly facilitated by the EO, MASI and SECSIP in Honiara, Auki, Gizo.

We (provincial reporters) have always been overlooked. Media trainings in the past only occurred in Honiara, but we feel we are the focal points on contact when it comes to election to ensure a country-wide coverage of the processes.

Adrian Sine, a senior SIBC reporter based in Gizo

* CSOs: NCW, GPCW, SWLC, VIT, TEFILA, HOH, Destiny Global, MASI, TSI, SOC, Malanesian Board of Mission, FOC.



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KEY RESULTS

- The project provided technical advice for the identification, design and production of a range of awareness actions, channels and products. This has contributed to expand outreach and have a stronger and more fluid communication with the electorate. In addition to traditional products (voter registration and how to vote posters, leaflets, stickers, banners and manuals), the project supports SMS blasts, radio talkback show, TV spots encouraging voter registration aired during the FIFA World Cup and establishment of a telephone hotline to solve queries from the electorate. SECSIP proposed and established innovative strategies like the utilization of a commodity (SolRice) to disseminate voter awareness leaflets and booklets to reach out to small and isolated communities.
- Comprehensive upgrade of the EO institutional website resulting in a more user friendly, interactive and secure site with search engine providing key information for the electorate to confirm names and ID numbers included in the final voters lists. This has resulted in a substantial increase of traffic.



Successful cooperation with SolRice private enterprise to maximise outreach

On 30 May 2018, SECSIP and SolRice, the country's leading distributor of rice, signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to collaborate on a pro-bono basis for the dissemination of voter awareness materials. SolRice helped the project maximise outreach through its extensive distribution networks around the country by disseminating 110,000 voter awareness leaflets ahead of voter registration. The Association of People with Disabilities (PWD) supported this activity by inserting leaflets into the self-adhesive envelopes adhered to 40lb bags of rice. In a second operation, SolRice assisted with the distribution of a similar number of Voter Education booklets before the 2019 general election.



Support to electoral legal and administrative reform: Output 4

- SECSIP contributed to electoral legal reform by engaging a legislative drafter who worked with the Electoral Reform Task Force in drafting three bills for Cabinet approval: the Electoral Bill, the Political Parties Integrity (Amendment) Bill, and Constitution (Consequential Amendment) Bill. Upon adoption of the new Electoral Act, SECSIP contributed to the preparation of the subsidiary legislation via regulations. SECSIP proposed the revision of administrative forms to introduce the grounds for voter registration objections facilitating a more consistent and coherent decision-making process during public hearings.
- Facilitation of south to south / regional collaboration among political actors. SECSIP collaborated in the organization and supported the participation of the Solomon Islands delegation in the Pacific Regional Dialogue (Fiji, September 2017) and in the Pacific Political Parties Conference (September 2018). Participation in these fora provided an opportunity to analyze the legal framework underlying the development of political parties and its impact on political stability and consolidation of democracy. It also contributed to the sharing of information and experiences and to continue building networks of critical stakeholders from the Pacific region.
- Enhancement of capacities of the Political Parties Commission through the engagement of 3 SECSIP graduates supporting PPC legal, research and training units. The work of these graduates has made a solid contribution to the implementation of the PPC mandate particularly for the registration of new political parties and awareness actions in preparation for the national general election.



SECSIP

KEY RESULTS

Promotion of women's leadership and political participation: Output 5

- Support to gender mainstreaming is addressed throughout all areas of project implementation contributing to enhance awareness of national authorities on women's political participation in voter registration, operations, media and legal aspects. An example of this was the Poster and Essay Competition on Women's Leadership which provided an avenue for debate and awareness raising on topics related to women political participation. A total of 210 secondary school students and teachers participated in this action. Another activity focusing on women's empowerment was the "Equality in education" film. This film was entirely planned, designed and produced by 15 women belonging to the Mataki community in Bellona as a result of SECSIP grant with Village Technology Trust (VTT).
- Particular actions developed by SECSIP directly focused on women's political leadership include the commission of a research on Women's Leadership and Political Participation in 10 selected constituencies in five provinces: Central (Ngella and Russells/Savo), Honiara (Central Honiara and East Honiara), Isabel (Gao Bugotu and Maringe Kokota), Malaita (Fataleka and Lau/Mbaelelea) and Western (North Vella Lavella and West New Georgia). The Research contributed to a better understanding of the factors that inhibit and enable women's political representation and informed SECSIP strategy and action plan in support of women's political participation.
- The referred action plan 2018-19 is based on 3 premises: (a) need for long term nature of promotion of women political participation; (b) recognition of positive effects of short-term actions if framed within a long term perspective; (c) multi-layered approach, dealing simultaneously with various lines of action which include capacity building (pre-nomination and post-nomination trainings), working with media and resource support.

Pre-nomination capacity building actions

Three-phase approach to contribute to improve the key leadership and political skills of intending women candidates for the national and provincial elections. First actions was a four-day National Women's Leadership Workshop held in August 2018 and attended by 60 national and international women leaders from the Pacific region including former PM of New Zealand, Ms. Helen Clark, Dame Carol Kidu from PNG and Hon. Salote Rarodro from Fiji.



This was followed by a four-day capacity participated by 35 Solomon Islands women leaders including 24 intending candidates for the national election. The workshop focused on issues related to democracy and the regulatory framework for elections, women public leadership at various levels and general aspects of women's confidence building and empowerment.



Poster and essay competition winners with quests



g) Form E: Objection to inclusion on list



FORM E
Electoral Act 2018
Section 38

OBJECTION TO INCLUSION ON LIST BY ELECTOR

Serial Number/Code
000001

OBJECTOR'S PARTICULARS

I,
First Name Other Name(s) Family Name

being a person whose name appears on the Provisional list of electors for

Province: Constituency:

Ward: Village/Area:

My Voter ID Number is

do hereby give notice that I object to the name of

First Name Other Name(s) Family Name

being retained on the list of electors for the above named constituency and ward.

This person's Voter ID Number is

GROUNDS FOR OBJECTION

To evaluate the grounds for this objection, please tick the boxes as relevant.

Not a citizen of Solomon Islands

Not reached 18 years of age

Not ordinarily resident in the constituency

Sentenced by a Court to imprisonment for a term of, or exceeding 6 months

Certified insane

Disqualified by a law relating to offences connected with elections

Not an entitled person in relation to the constituency
 In this constituency, does the person have any of the following:

- Permanent residence	YES <input type="checkbox"/>	NO <input type="checkbox"/>
- Business	YES <input type="checkbox"/>	NO <input type="checkbox"/>
- Place of work	YES <input type="checkbox"/>	NO <input type="checkbox"/>
- Linkages to the land, community, tribe/family or location	YES <input type="checkbox"/>	NO <input type="checkbox"/>
- Other. Please state the reasons in the space provided on the reverse page of this form		

The person is registered in another constituency
 Please state the name of the constituency where you believe the person is registered

Province: Constituency:

Ward: Village/Area:

The person has died

- Death Certificate
- Names of close relatives who can confirm the death



FORM E

Electoral Act 2018
Section 38

OBJECTION TO INCLUSION ON LIST BY ELECTOR

Please provide details with respect to the reasons for this objection. Please state clearly why you consider that the person should not be retained in the voter's list of this constituency.

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DECLARATION TO BE SIGNED BY APPLICANT

I understand that if the Revising Officer dismisses this objection and makes a finding that the objection was frivolous or vexatious, he/she may order that I pay the costs of the inquiry or of witnesses. I also understand that if I provide misleading information, I may commit an offence under section 113 of the Electoral Act and will be liable on conviction to a maximum penalty of \$50,000 or imprisonment for 5 years or both.

Signature or Mark of Applicant: _____

Date: _____ / _____ / _____

WITNESS

Marked in the presence of: (Registration Officer/Assistant Registration Officer)

Signature: _____

Name: _____

The registration officer must make all reasonable attempts to give the person who is the subject of the objection notice of the objection.

DECISION BOX

RVO/ARVO: Rejected Approved

Please tick the appropriate box:

Name: _____

Signature: _____

Date: _____ / _____ / _____

Reason for Decision:

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Available documents. Has any of the below been provided:

- Property titles (house, business) and lease agreements,
- Utility bills (electricity, water)
- Certificates of employment & certificates from educational institutions issued to the registrant or to his/her close relatives
- Affidavit/Statutory Declaration
- Other

