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Progress report: January-June 2018

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



## **PROJECT INFORMATION**

**Project ID: 0010550**

**Duration: July 2017 – 30 June 2020**

**UNDP Strategic Plan Component: Democratic Governance**

**Estimated Total Project Budget: USD 5,860,986**

**January-December 2018 Work Plan (revised budget<sup>1</sup>): USD 2,972,340**

**Implementing Partner: Solomon Islands Electoral Commission (SIEC)**

**Chief Technical Advisor: Olga Rábade**

## **DONOR PARTNERS**



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<sup>1</sup> SECSIP Project Board on 28 August (AWP signed on 1 October 2018).

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## LIST OF ACRONYMS

BVR	Biometric Voter Registration
CSO	Civil Society Organization
CTA	Chief Technical Advisor
EU	European Union
IT	Information Technology
MASI	Media Association of Solomon Islands
MERHD	Ministry of Education and Human Resources Development
MWA	Matangi Women's Association
MWYCFA	Ministry of Women, Youth, Children and Family Affairs
M&E	Monitoring and Evaluation
NVAS	National Voter Awareness Strategy
OPPC	Office of the Political Parties Commission
ORPP	Office of the Registrar of the Political Parties
PMO	Minister of Prime Minister and Cabinet
PPC	Political Parties Commission
SECSIP	Strengthening the Electoral Cycle in the Solomon Islands
SIEC	Solomon Islands Electoral Commission
SIECO	Solomon Islands Electoral Commission Office
TAC	Technical Advisory Committee
ToT	Training of Trainers
TOR	Terms of Reference
UN	United Nations
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
VTT	Village Technology Trust

## I. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

SECSIP, funded by the European Union, the Government of Australia and UNDP, was instrumental in providing technical assistance for capacity development, voter registration, electoral reform, voter awareness, women's political participation as well as financial support for the strengthening of the electoral cycle.

The project provided technical advice and equipment for the improvement of the BVR system with a proposal to improve data security, risk loss mitigation and upgrade software features with a view to enhance national ownership and long term sustainability. During the first quarter, the technical advice provided by SECSIP BVR consultants was instrumental to the successful preparation and implementation for provincial voter registration exercise conducted in Choiseul and Western Province. SECSIP also contributed in the organization of a by-election on 23 May to choose the Member of Parliament to represent the Gizo-Kolombangara Constituency which resulted in the election of the second female Member of Parliament, Hon. Lanelle Tanangada. The construction of a new database and results management centre consolidating SIEC operations at its premises will facilitate a more efficient implementation of the voter registration processes and reduce the institutional financial burden.

The project supported the Electoral Office in the areas of public outreach, logistics, and human resources. With respect to the latter, a Graduate Programme was launched on 12 February 2018. A total of 10 graduates<sup>2</sup> started working in different capacities including human resources (1), logistics (1), IT (1), legal assistant (1), research (1), training assistant (1), voter awareness (2), and field coordination assistant (2).

An Electoral Risk Assessment exercise was completed in June 2018 and identified the challenges around the general election suggesting how the project activities can be strengthened to anticipate and mitigate electoral related risks.

SECSIP commissioned a research on Women's Leadership and Political Participation in 10 selected constituencies and carried out during this reporting period. The study analyses the leadership and political participation of women in Solomon Islands taking into consideration a) the historical voting practices in constituencies as they relate to women candidates, b) characterizing the type of voters who are more and less inclined to vote for women candidates and the reasons why and c) identifying the factors that are to be considered as the most significant in limiting or enabling electoral success.

Two multi-partner SECSIP initiatives have planned and started implementing during this reporting period: a) a broad voter awareness programme and, b) support to

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<sup>2</sup> Seven graduates work in support of the electoral office and 3 for the Office of the Registrar of the Political Parties

women candidates (framed in a longer-term promotion of women's political participation in the country). The Project provided awareness raising support in line with SIEC 2016-2019 Voter Awareness Strategy.

With regard to technical expertise, SECSIP identified and engaged an Election Operations Adviser to closely work with Head of Operations of the Electoral Office in the preparation and implementation of the detailed operational plan.

The support to the legal reform was also strengthened through SECSIP's engagement of a Legislative Drafter who worked with the Task Force for drafting three bills for Cabinet approval (Electoral Bill, Political Parties Integrity (Amendment) Bill, and Constitution (Consequential Amendment) Bill), and conducted debriefing sessions to relevant government authorities.

## II. ACTIVITIES BY OUTPUT

### **OUTPUT 1: Sustainable voter registration system created to strengthen the inclusiveness and integrity of the electoral cycle**

After the collapse of the Electoral Office server containing the BVR database, SECSIP timely technical assistance for the recovery in October 2017, the Project identified and made recommendations for urgent actions to backup and protect BVR data.

SECSIP provided technical advice and a plan to enhance the integrity and reliability of the BVR database. In addition to the financial aspects, the sustainability and national ownership of the voter registration system also requires to progressively build the technical skills and human resources required for the continuous operation of a biometric voter registration system. Accordingly, a plan was developed by SECSIP Senior Biometric Voter Registration Adviser targeting these aspects.

Accordingly SECSIP engaged three technicians who contributed to the update of the electoral census in Choiseul and Western Province. Their deliverables focused on three main aspects and criteria a) State of database backup, b) State of IT equipment database, and c) Level of security of BVR database.

In this respect, BVR consultants provided technical advice and work in the day-to-day maintenance of BVR equipment, including updates, integration of data into the system as per request, and solutions to technical issues experienced by the IT department. Due to close involvement and team work with BVR consultants, IT department also got the opportunity of learning by doing which resulted in improved knowledge for them. This was highly relevant in preparation for the provincial voter registration exercise, so far conducted in Choiseul and the Western Province. This exercise involved the production and publication of provisional voters' lists, a reviewing period of omission and objection claims (total of 1130 filed; Western Province = 930, Choiseul = 200), and completion and in-print production of updated voters' lists. The final lists were submitted to the Ministry of Provincial Government on the 8<sup>th</sup> March.

In addition to assisting the voters' registration process in Choiseul and Western Province, BVR consultants were also engaged in the verification process of existing registration kits (the verification result can be accessed here: <https://drive.google.com/open?id=1Xx7ZNRFMnlumJnF5sTarX4jxPgSOpXrn>). The consultants prepared an electronic checklist form to facilitate the verification process resulting in a more efficient process for the assessment of the status of BVR kits. The BVR kits were categorized in three different groups: a) functional laptops and printers, b) kits with faulty laptops, and c) kits with faulty printers. This assessment also facilitated the timely identification of procurement needs (i.e. equipment and elections materials) for the upcoming national voter registration campaign and

electoral events. Upon arrival of new BVR equipment in March, BVR consultants conducted a technical inspection of the equipment, including configuration and networking of the server, and configuration of network switches and UPS. SECSIP also supported the procurement of spare parts for the upcoming national registration campaign including BVR kits batteries, printer batteries, cartridges, finger print scanner, portable generators, polling kits, ballot boxes and bottles of indelible ink.

Overall, these activities enabled a more dependable functioning of the BVR system and contributed to the identification and recommendation for IT risk mitigation measures during this period.

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

The technical support from SECSIP on administration and human resources, infrastructure, and networking and partnership has strengthened the capacity of the national electoral authorities to manage the electoral cycle.

A proposed timeline and a concept of operations were developed by OSIEC which initially provide for the commencement of registration in late August 2018. Upon the arrival of SECSIP Operations Specialist, (EOS) a detailed operational plan and deployment timeline was prepared and presented to the Commission for its endorsement. The Electoral Operations Specialist works closely with the SIEC Head of Operations providing technical advice and support in all operational aspects including planning, logistics, procurement, and human resources. The new operational plan provided a comprehensive explanation unfolding the various phases of the Biometric Voter Register update. Together with the OSIEC Head of Operations, EOS facilitated several roundtable discussions to define individual work-plans for the areas of public outreach, logistics, human resources and finance. EOS identified the need to establish a mechanism for field coordination and established a reporting structure to cover this gap.

### **Graduate Programme**

This initiative is envisaged as a temporary initiative expected to contribute to the enhancement of capacities and sustainability of the partners organizations (*SECSIP beneficiaries namely the Electoral Office & PPC*). The expected outcome of this programme is to attain a group of highly qualified staff in key areas identified by UNDP SECSIP partner organizations to be considered for direct engagement by the national authorities under the civil service scheme. A Memorandum of Understanding signed by SIEC, PPC, Ministry of Home Affairs, Ministry of Public Services and the Office of the Prime Minister establishing its institutional framework.

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A total 10 Graduates were engaged upon selection of aspirants through a competitive process which involved written assessments and interviews. The graduates started working in different units identified by national authorities as priority areas which required immediate support. The expected outcome of this programme is to attain a group of qualified staff to be engaged in key areas identified by UNDP SECSIP partner organizations, and who will have gained professional experience at the end of the programme.

Table 01: Number of Graduates supporting electoral office and PPC

Office	Position	Number of Person
SIECO	Human Resources Assistant	1
	Logistics Assistant	1
	IT Assistant	1
	Voter Awareness Assistant	2
	Field coordination	2
PPC	Legal Assistant	1
	Research Assistant	1
	Training Assistant	1
TOTAL		10

### **Electoral Risk Assessment**

An Electoral Risk Assessment exercise (the report can be accessed here: <https://drive.google.com/open?id=1fzCVfGagM16hRGtoCu99ycJr-5vCAoj2>), completed in June 2018, identified the challenges around the general election and suggested how the project activities can be strengthened to anticipate and mitigate risks including those in connection with electoral related violence. The findings and recommendations of this assessment are expected to provide strategic guidance and contribute to make informed decisions on electoral risk mitigation. The assessment identifies and makes recommendations for mechanisms to undertake an integrated approach for the upcoming electoral events. This assessment focused on the context analysis based on the secondary literatures and feedback from different stakeholders. During a week in-country mission, the assessment team met bilaterally and in round table discussions with national authorities and stakeholders including SIEC, PPC, MOHA, MEHRD, MWYFA and international partners such as the EU Ambassador and the Australian High Commission. UNDP Asia Pacific Governance and Peace Building Adviser, Simon Finley and Individual Consultant, Julien Barbara were the members of this team.

### **BVR Database and Result Management Center**

SECSIP supported the construction of a new database and results management centre. The Project commenced working on a proposal for the architecture and setup of the networks and computer-side requirements (i.e. the wiring ensuring the right connectivity is available for the BVR kits and for the servers) with a view to achieve

an efficient operation of equipment and human resources. It is expected that the new data centre will contribute to a more efficient operation of the voter registration process by enhancing the maintenance and security of the equipment.

In accordance with the Terms of Reference, SECSIP Software Developer commenced to work on the upgrades of software to support the automation of backups and the migration of biometric data to a proper database system with enhanced data integrity protection.

### **Support to Gizo-Kolombangara By-Election**

SECSIP contributed to the organization of a by-election on 23<sup>rd</sup> May to choose the Member of Parliament to represent the Gizo-Kolombangara Constituency (Western Province). The project supported the capacity building of the polling staff trainings held in Honiara, and also contributed with technical and financial support for awareness raising activities.



Pic 01: People are waiting in a queue to cast their votes in the provincial election of Choiseul and Western Provinces

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

#### **Development of Voter Awareness Programme**

SECSIP designed an integrated voter awareness programme in line with SIEC 2016-2019 Voter Awareness Strategy. This is a multi-partner programme to be implemented through a broad voter awareness programme. This initiative is to be

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managed and implemented in a multi-partner effort which will include electoral authorities, government agencies and civil society organizations as well as possible collaboration with other actors including UNDP Peace Building Project, regional UNDP programmes and those implemented by the bilateral assistance actors.

### **Partnership for Voter Awareness Activities**

During the reporting period, the project initiated networking and partnership activities with different institutions to raise awareness of the voters. A National Consultant, engaged by SECSIP, consulted with four religious institutions namely The Church of Melanesia, South Sea Evangelical Church, United Church and the Catholic Church to introduce voter awareness activities during different religious events. Information on religious gatherings and conventions, calendar of events planned for 2018 was gathered to develop a timeline of awareness related activities. In a geographically challenging context, this type of partnership presents an important opportunity to enhance SIEC outreach of civic and voter information since the religious institutions and faith groups have extensive networks throughout the Solomon Islands.



Pic 02: Voter registration information leaflets are attached to the rice bags

On 30 May 2018, SECSIP and SolRice signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) to collaborate in the dissemination of voter awareness materials through SolRice network and distribution channels. With some 900 islands, Solomon Islands faces enormous logistical challenges when it comes to circulating information to its

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citizens. SolRice is a leading rice wholesaler and generously agreed on a pro bono basis to SECSIP innovative proposal which involves allowing self-adhesive plastic document envelopes carrying voter awareness leaflets to be affixed to its 40lb rice bags. These rice bags are transported and distributed via the company's networks throughout the country, reaching villages located in the most remote parts of the Solomon Islands. The focus of the first phase of this action is the distribution of voter registration information leaflets encouraging the registration of eligible citizens. This is expected to be followed later in the year by a second round of information on how to vote.

The first meeting of the new Voter Awareness Stakeholder Working Group was organised on 7 June 2018. On this date, the SIEC Communications Awareness team and SECSIP advisors discussed the TOR of this working group which was endorsed by 15 representatives of the civil society. Most participants expressed their desire to be a part of the voter awareness initiative. This working group will do monitoring of awareness activities contributing to maintain the consistency of the message and avoiding duplication of efforts. An initial mapping exercise was also carried out to identify the current CSO activity in the field related to voter awareness.

### **Voter Awareness Programme**

SECSIP supported voter awareness by producing and distributing 200 posters/pamphlets. The project also supported the mock voter registration activity conducted during Kodili festival in Buala, Isabel Province (from 26-28 June). It is estimated that, this event benefited around 500 people.

SECSIP provided technical expertise and financial support to design and produce three TV commercials on voter registration. These commercials were aired during the Football World Cup. The proposal to purchase airtime in order to take advantage of this exceptional event broadcast Voter Information TV spots was assessed by the Project at the request of SIEC. The Project considered that given the popularity of the FIFA World Cup matches amongst Solomon Islands public, this was an excellent outreach opportunity. It was reported that entire communities travel to gather around a TV to watch the matches live and that many DVD copy shops in the country's urban centres work overtime to produce DVD copies of the matches. Another factor was that an important part of the audience is composed of youth – a key target group in the overall voter awareness campaign. SECSIP also supported the design and production of a range of other awareness raising materials including tri-folded pamphlets illustrating the key voter registration phases, stickers, pull up banners, etc.



Pic 03: Sticker prepared for voter registration

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The project additionally supported the production and telecast cost of a 15 minutes radio programme on nomination requirements, electoral campaign policy, electoral offences, etc. for Gizo-Kolombangara by-election.

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

SECSIP continued providing technical support to the Electoral Reform Task force in its role as the leading advisory body for the electoral and political reform. The constitutional amendments, allowing for the modification of the electoral and the political party bills, already in Parliament, were submitted to Parliament during this reporting period. The legal reform process commenced 2 years ago and has been supported by the project throughout this period. At the beginning of 2018, the three bills comprising the reform package were submitted to Parliament: one modifying the electoral act, a second one modifying the political parties' integrity act (PPIA), and an "enabling" bill with the necessary constitutional amendments to allow for the modifications proposed in the first two bills.

A SECSIP funded Legislative Drafter worked closely with the Task Force for drafting these three bills for Cabinet approval (Electoral Bill, Political Parties Integrity (Amendment) Bill, and Constitution (Consequential Amendment) Bill), and conducted debriefing sessions to relevant government agencies. At the request of the Electoral Task Force, SECSIP extended the contract of Legal Adviser and Legislative Drafter Consultant to assist in the tabling process, cabinet approval, and enactment of the constitutional bills. It is expected that the constitutional amendments and the proposed electoral bill presented to the Parliament will be adopted by July 2018.

#### **OUTPUT 5: Capacity of the SIEC to promote gender mainstreaming**

Women awareness and ability for political participation enhanced during this reporting period through awareness campaign, research, and capacity building initiatives in partnership with CSOs.

#### **Research on women's political leadership and participation**

SECSIP commissioned a research on Women's Leadership and Political Participation in 10 selected constituencies: Gao Bugotu, Maringe Kokota, East Honiara, Central Honiara, East Central Guadalcanal, North West Guadalcanal, Fataleka, Lau/Mbaelelea, West New Georgia, North Vella Lavella, North West Choiseul, South Choiseul, Ngella & Russells/Savo. The rationale of selecting these constituencies is given in the annex B. 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.

As a result of the combination of research tools, a total of 93 Semi-Structured Interviews (34 with women) and 1061 Close Ended Interviews were conducted in 10 Constituencies from March to May 2018. SSIs were conducted with 38 candidates from the target constituencies, 24 candidates from other constituencies, 15 women leaders, and 16 other/political personnel (e.g. campaign managers). Close ended interviews have a particular focus on leadership, candidate qualities and characteristics, campaigning, political participation, and women's leadership. A desk assessment of relevant literature and women's performance in past elections is to be used to establish the project's analytical framework and identify two constituencies in each of Central, Honiara, Isabel, Malaita and Western Province.

This study is expected to contribute in the identification of opportunities to improve the evidence base on the factors instrumental to the success of a candidate in Solomon Islands. The final report will be available in August 2018.

### **Poster and Essay competition<sup>3</sup>**

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 2018 Poster and Essay competition. A total of 170 participants (students and teachers) participated and benefited from this activity with entries in the following categories: a) Poster-37 participants (including 23 female), and b) Essay-133 participants (including 74 female) across all three categories (Junior, Senior and Teachers).

Participation in the 2018 competition experienced a substantial increase comparing to the participation in 2016 (only 42 persons participated). Project supported initiatives like 30-minute information sessions, SMS blast to 65,000 recipients across all 10 provinces of the Solomon Island<sup>4</sup>, etc. were instrumental to increase the participation of students and teachers. Winners (see the list of winners in annex A) of this competition received awards on 5<sup>th</sup> April at the Art Gallery Display room. The panel of judges included representatives from Solomon Islands Artist Association, Media Association of Solomon Islands (MASI), SINU, MWYCFA, MEHRD, and teachers from secondary schools. The Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Home Affairs provided the key note speech and presented the awards to the winners in junior student category.

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<sup>3</sup> News link of Essay and Poster competition: UNDP Solomon:

<https://twitter.com/undpsolomon/status/981766532974784512>

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

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<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/>

<sup>4</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.



Pic 04: A Poster winner (Junior student category)

The EU Ambassador HE Leonidas Tezapsidis presented the awards to the winners in senior student category. He mentioned the words of award recipient Eugene Talairamo from Bishop Epalle School- ‘to dream big, and to take steady steps towards the increase of women’s leadership in Solomon Islands’ and poster winner Rowena Morgan from King George School with her piece ‘break a barrier, raise a nation’ in his speech. The Australian High Commissioner, HE Roderick Brazier presented the awards to the teachers and remarked on the importance of secondary schools teachers and their influence to motivate and encourage future leaders.

### **International Women Day Celebration**

SECSIP celebrated the International Women’s day by conducting a panel discussion on gender and women’s political participation with secondary school students. Voter’s registration, the importance of exercising the right to vote, and the principle of secrecy of vote were main topics discussed in this event.

## **III. MANAGEMENT AND TECHNICAL SUPPORT**

### **Project Board Meeting**

Two Project Board Meetings were held during this reporting period. The first meeting was held on the 27<sup>th</sup> of April 2018. After opening remarks by Azusa Kubota, UNDP Country Office Manager, SECSIP CTA presented an update on the by-elections, a timeline of BVR actions and activities, and activities in preparation for the General

Elections. She presented a proposal to increase SECSIP budget in support of the elections.

In addition to the Board members Hon. Ajilon Nasiu, Chairperson of the Commission; Permanent Secretary of MOHA, Mr. George Palua; and UNDP Country Office Manager, Ms. Azusa Kubota; attendants included the Ambassador of the European Union, Leonidas Tezapsidis; SIEC Commissioner, Taeasi Sanga, representative of the Australian High Commission (Michael Hasset Deputy High Commissioner, Alexandra Little Second Secretary, Narelle Hallion Second Secretary), ESSP advisers (Phil Whelan and Walter Rigamoto), UNDP Effective Governance Team Leader, Jane Waetara; SIEC Head of Operations, Freddie Bosoboe; SIEC Finance Officer, Ruben Rongomea; CTA SECSIP Project, Olga Rábade; and PISOth Ving SECSIP Project Coordinator.

A second Project Board meeting during this reporting period was held on the 22<sup>nd</sup> June. During this meeting SECSIP requested clarification from SIEC on the expected arrival of BVR vendor ESI in the month of July. SECSIP explained that a previous meeting had been held the CEO and ESSP Adviser Phil 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 to seek clarification on the scope and terms of reference of this ESI engagement. The CTA considered raising this issue with the Board 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 the steps adopted by SECSIP in order to provide BVR support. The Project had presented several alternatives to the SIEC with respect to SECSIP BVR support. 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 CEO had endorsed the plan in April and the Project had then proceeded to engage the Senior BVR Adviser and the Software Developer. The Senior BVR Adviser was now in-country and had developed specifications and provided instructions to the Software Developer on the software upgrades previously identified. Additionally, the Project had procured new hardware that to enable SIEC to conduct the deduplication in-country.

Other key issues discussed were the progress of activities on re-activation of the interagency coordination mechanism and proposed changes to its terms of reference, presentation on Electoral Risk Assessment findings, update on SECSIP activities and on-going project support. The project requested feedback on the updated joint SECSIP and SIEC operational timeline and the draft Electoral Risk Assessment Report.

### **Steering/Technical Committee Meetings**

A Technical Advisory Committee meeting was held on the 8<sup>th</sup> March. The newly appointed Chief Electoral Officer Moses Saitala and Head of Operations Fred Bosoboe

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briefed the attendees on the status of the preparations for the upcoming by-election and national registration campaign. After an introduction by SECSIP CTA, Senior Adviser Carlos Valenzuela presented a proposal for the support of women candidates. SECSIP donor representatives, the EU Ambassador Leonidas Tezapsidis, EU Programme Officer Brenda Wara, the Counsellor of the Australian High Commission Fiona Hoggart and Second Secretary Narelle Hallion attended this meeting as well as UNDP Country Officer Manager.

#### IV. EXPENDITURE

<b>Outputs</b>	<b>Total Budget USD</b>	<b>Total Expenditure USD</b>
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	249,497
Output 3: National authorities and local networks have better capacity to train and educate the population on voter awareness and civic engagement	263,000	114,856
Output 4: Electoral and legal reform supported	76,000	1,699
Output 5: Capacity of the SIEC to promote gender mainstreaming	317,000	129,875
Project Management	829,825	389,469
GMS	188,515	94,938
<b>TOTAL USD</b>	<b>2,972,340</b>	<b>1,098,834</b>

## ANNEX

### A. List of Winners of 2017-2018 Poster and Essay Competition

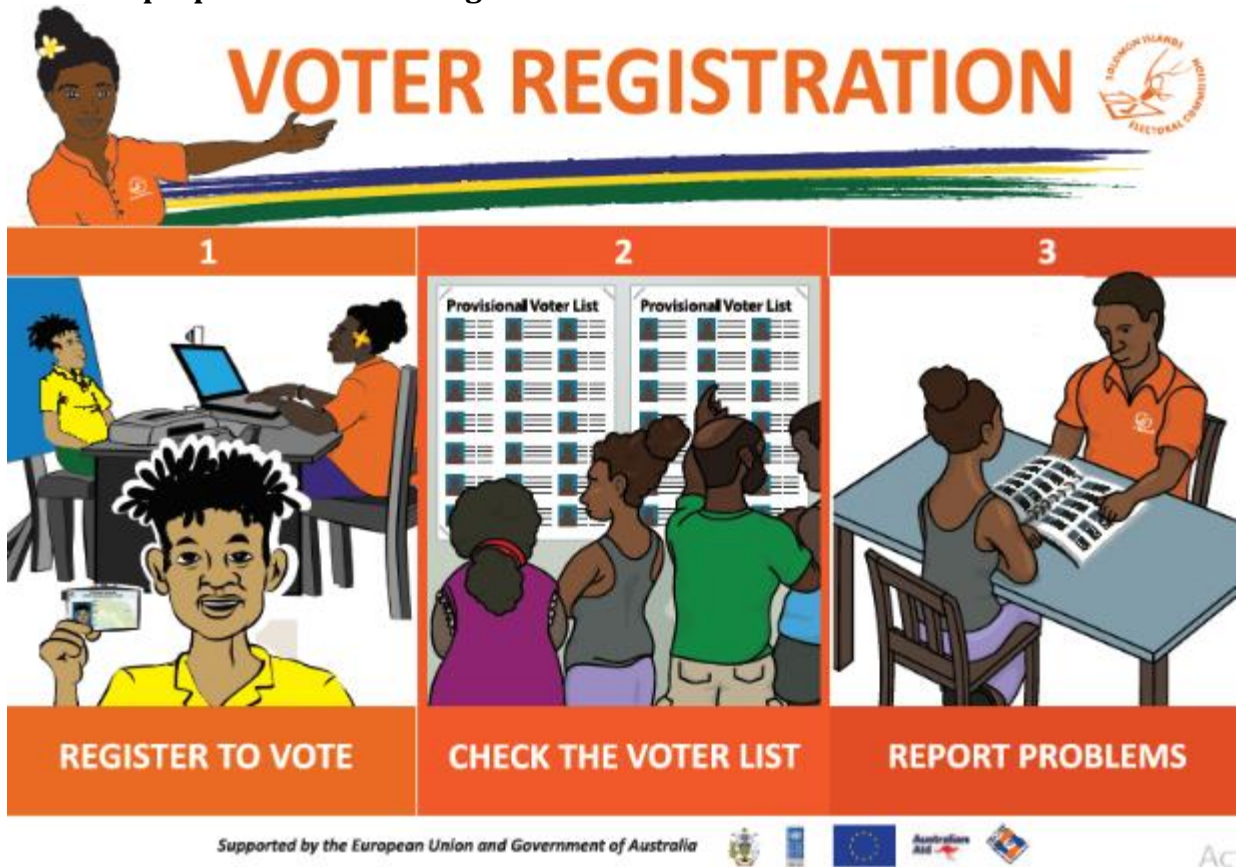
Category	Winners
Junior Student	<p>POSTER</p> <p>Female winner: Danielle Baura (Woodford Int)            Female runner-up: Jayleen R Qoqonokana (King George VI)            Male winner: Philemon Akao (Bishop Epalle)            Male runner-up: Malachi Sore Jnr (Betikama Adventist Coll)</p> <p>ESSAY</p> <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 (Tuvaruhu)            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>

## B. 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 matrilineal 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	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.

	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.		
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.

C. Poster prepared for Voter Registration Information



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