

QUARTERLY PROGRESS REPORT

Date: 01 July to 30 September 2018

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

PROJECT NUMBER: *00103473*

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

PART 1: KEY RESULTS ACHIEVED IN THIS QUARTER

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

- Improved electoral operations planning and implementation. SECSIP Operations Adviser was instrumental in the development of a detailed voter registration plan assessing and allocating available resources (human, equipment). This was a significant contribution to the successful completion of voter registration of 372,850 people in all provinces. SECSIP also identified needs in terms of equipment and electoral materials for the registration exercise including spare parts for BVR kits, portable generators essential for registration in the field.
- The legal framework was approved by Parliament during the last week of August 2018 with the adoption of the Constitutional Amendment Act and the new Electoral Act. In addition to SECSIP CTA advisory, the Project engaged a Legislative Drafter (International Consultant) who was responsible for the main drafting of the three bills comprised in the reform package (Electoral Bill, the Political Parties Integrity Bill and the Constitutional Amendment Bill). SECSIP consultant worked closely with the Electoral Reform Task Force, SIEC and PPC to draft these laws and facilitated presentations to Government Caucus, MOHA, SIEC and PPC on the proposed legislation.
- Human resources capacity of the Electoral Office (EO) and PPC improved due to engagement of three graduates to PPC (2 legal assistant, and 1 research assistant), and two National Consultants and seven Graduates to EO. SECSIP also engaged a Human Resource Adviser (National Consultant) to support EO.
- Outreach efforts in place include the project built linkage and partnership with a private sector entity (SolRice), six CSOs (8 provinces and Honiara city), and religious institutions to implement different awareness raising programmes.
- Electorate awareness enhanced through an intensive awareness campaign comprising SMS text messages, radio, press releases, and social media (Facebook) ahead of voter registration. The focus of the campaign was to reinforce the message of the importance of registration (particularly with youth) and eligibility requirements, timetable and location of centres.
- 60 women leaders, including potential candidates for the upcoming provincial and general elections, improved their knowledge on the electoral cycle, its processes and legal requirements through a four day national workshop. Ms. Helen Clark, former UNDP Administrator, opened and participated in the first day panel discussion.

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

ACTIVITY RESULTS (in ATLAS) (outputs for non-GEF projects; outcomes for GEF projects)	INDICATORS	BASELINE	ANNUAL TARGETS	OUTPUTS INDICATORS RESULTS	EVIDENCE (SOURCE, LINK)
<p>Output 1: Sustainable voter registration system created to strengthen the inclusiveness and integrity of the electoral cycle¹</p>	<p>Proportion of eligible voters who are registered to vote, disaggregated by sex, age, and excluded groups including PLWD</p>	<p>85%</p>	<p>90%</p>	<p>Progress Keys : On Track</p> <p><i>Report Results Achieved against Activity Results 1 Indicator(s): Extent to which SIEC developed a sustainable voter's roll and relevant sustainable mechanisms:</i></p> <p>SECSIP Operations Adviser was instrumental in the development of a detailed voter registration plan assessing and allocating available resources (human, equipment). This was a significant contribution to the successful completion of provisional lists with 372,850 voters². SECSIP also identified needs in terms of equipment and electoral materials for the registration exercise including spare parts for BVR kits, portable generators essential for registration in the field.</p> <p>The Electoral Office carried out the registration process in all 50 constituencies of Solomon Islands. Voter registration initially planned from</p>	<p>Link for evidence:</p> <p>Voter registration data:</p> <p>http://www.siec.gov.sb/index.php/check-your-registration.html</p>

¹ UNDP has withdrawn itself from supporting output 1 and communicated orally and in writing to the CEO, SIEC Commissioners and international partners in a letter from the Country Director of UNDP Pacific Office on 8 August 2018. More explanation can be found in part 5 of this report.

² This figure will be revised after the public hearings process to decide on the objections. Final lists will be produced in January 2019. Final lists in 2014 had 287,562 registered electors.

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				3 to 27 September, which later extended another 2 days for Honiara Out of Constituency Centre. In accordance with the electoral timeline, the Electoral Office will display the provisional voters' lists by 29 October 2018.	
<p>Output 2: More efficient and effective administrative procedures designed and implemented for the Solomon Islands Election Commission (SIEC) to fulfill its mandate</p>	<p>Electoral authorities with improved administrative and human resources capacities to fulfil mandate</p> <p>To be assessed on the following rating scale:</p> <p>0=UNDP is not building capacity of the electoral authorities</p> <p>1=Capacity has not improved</p> <p>2= Capacity very partially improved</p> <p>3= Capacity partially improved</p> <p>4= Capacity largely improved</p>	<p>SECSIP I provided capacity building for SIEC since 2013. Only 6 of those persons remained at OSIEC at start SECSIP II</p>	<p>Scored 3 out of 4</p>	<p>Progress Keys:</p> <p>On Track</p> <p><i>Report Results Achieved against Activity Results 2 Indicator(s): Enhanced capacity of SIEC to manage an electoral cycle through the following actions:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Enhanced capacity of the Electoral Office to manage voter registration as per electoral calendar. The EOS provided technical support and guideline for registration team formation, their movement plan, and registration centre selection before voter registration. - SECSIP also engaged a National Consultant-Human Resource to provide human resource management support to the Electoral Office. - Two national Graduates engaged as Field Coordination Assistants to strengthen the capacity of electoral operation team. Now, a total of 7 Graduates are working with EO. - Ahead of voter registration, facilities for registration centres improved due to SECSIP provided 210 portable generators. The project also procured spare parts and batteries for biometric voter registration kits. - The Electoral Office and the Royal Solomon Islands Police Force (RSIPF) signed an MOU on 13 September. The MOU establishes a framework of collaboration between the two institutions with a view to jointly 	<p>Link for evidence:</p> <p>MOU signature news link:</p> <p>https://www.rsipf.gov.sb/?q=news/940</p>

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				implement operational aspects in connection with electoral related security aspects.	
Output 3: National authorities and local networks have better capacity to train and educate the population on voter awareness and civic engagement	<p>Country with strengthened environments for civic engagement, including legal/regulatory framework for civil society organizations to function in the public sphere and contribute to development, and effective mechanisms/platforms to engage civil society (with a focus on women, youth or excluded groups).</p> <p>Degree of effectiveness should be scored using the following scale:</p> <p>1=Low 2=Medium 3=High</p>	None	Low	<p>Progress Keys:</p> <p>On Track</p> <p><i>Report Results Achieved against Activity Results 3 Indicator(s): Implementation of awareness activities in line with SIEC Awareness Strategy 2016-2019 :</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - SECSIP contributed notably to enhance strategic ability of the Electoral Office to conduct voter education through a partnership with SolRice. - With a view to maximize outreach and resources, six CSOs were partnered and engaged to implement face to face awareness activities in 8 provinces and Honiara city. A geographical mapping exercise was carried out earlier to map out who is doing what in where through a workshop. - Partnership extended further to religious institutions by involving Churches. - SolRice helped distributing around 110,000 leaflets up to 23rd July informing voters the registration, omissions and corrections process in the provisional voter list throughout the country. The Association of People with Disabilities (PWD) supported this activity by inserting leaflets into the self-adhesive envelopes adhered to 40lb bags of rice. - Awareness raised for voter through an intensive awareness campaign comprising SMS text messages, radio, press releases, 	<p>Link for evidence:</p> <p>SIEC website www.siec.gov.sb</p> <p>Link to voter registration public launching campaign: http://www.sibonline.com.sb/electoral-commission-launches-voter-registration-exercise/</p> <p>Facebook page: https://www.facebook.com/SIElectoralcommission/</p>

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				<p>and social media (Facebook) ahead of voter registration. SECSIP National Media Consultant updated the Facebook page on regularly, and posted press releases, messages and responses to queries. The focus of the campaign was to reinforce the message of the importance of registration (particularly with youth) and eligibility requirements, timetable and location of centres.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Faith based groups also contributed to the awareness efforts by making announcements concerning voter registration events. SECSIP supported the design and produced awareness materials including stickers, brochures, t-shirts, flow charts, etc. to CSOs and faith based groups. - Communication and evidence system improved on voter education by developing an online platform: the Electoral Office website www.siec.gov.sb. This tool helps the electorate to search and verify their registration data. - A study on 'Women Leadership and Political Participation' completed and findings validated through a workshop in late July. This research provides an evidence base on the obstacles and way out to women's political participation. - SECSIP organized a public launching ceremony to inform people about the commencement of the voter registration campaign. This event was broadcasted live by the national broadcaster (SIBC). 	
Output 4: Electoral reform, advocacy and monitoring supported to contribute to a	4.1 a) State institutions with improved administrative and human resource	0 (none)	3 (capacity partially improved)	<p>Progress Keys:</p> <p>On track</p>	Link for legal reform evidence:

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<p>stronger electoral commission and representative democracy</p>	<p>capacities to undertake drafting, public outreach and consultation and with mechanisms to ensure the participation of women and marginalized groups.</p> <p><i>Assessed on scale: 0 = UNDP not building capacity of the SIEC/PPC 1 = Capacity not improved 2 = Capacity very partially improved 3 = Capacity partially improved 4= Capacity largely improved</i></p>			<p><i>Report Results Achieved against Activity Results 4 Indicator(s):</i></p> <p><i>Extent to which SIEC and PPC have made contributions in connection with the reform:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The legal framework was finally passed by 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). SECSIP legislative drafter consultant drafted the three bills under the guidance of the Electoral Reform Task Force. Many procedural changes were included in the new Act, which represents a comprehensive overhaul of the previous electoral law. - PPC's human resource capacity improved due to engagement of three graduates: legal 2, and training assistant 1. - SECSIP Adviser on Women Leadership and Political Participation provided technical expertise to the newly formed provincial government of Western Province on the introduction of TSM at its provincial assembly. She facilitated a presentation held on 14 September in Gizo. She continues to provide technical expertise to the TSM Task Force led by the MWYFA. - No Temporary Special Measures were taken during this reporting period. 	<p>https://drive.google.com/open?id=1j8cbe6awEfAIB-SP2H_HUFlkEYhV Ki-1</p>
<p>Output 5: Increased capacity of communities to promote women's political participation</p>	<p>Proportion of women (to men) participating as candidates in local and national elections</p>	<p>0</p>	<p>3</p>	<p>Progress Keys:</p> <p>On Track</p> <p><i>Report Results Achieved against Activity Results 5 Indicator(s):</i></p>	<p>Links for evidence:</p> <p>https://drive.google.com/open?id=1j8cbe6awEfAIB-SP2H_HUFlkEYhV Ki-1</p>

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	<p>To be assessed on the following rating scale:</p> <p>0=UNDP is not building capacity of the communities</p> <p>1=Capacity has not improved</p> <p>2= Capacity very partially improved</p> <p>3= Capacity partially improved</p> <p>4= Capacity largely improved</p>			<p><i>Knowledge of women improved, and factors impacting on political participation of women documented.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 60 women leaders, including potential candidates for the upcoming provincial and general elections, improved their knowledge on the electoral cycle, its processes and legal requirements through a four day national workshop organized from 21 to 24 August. Ms. Helen Clark, former Prime Minister of New Zealand and former UNDP Administrator, opened and participated in the first day panel discussion. Other panelists who participated in the workshop were Dame Carol Kidu, former Member of Parliament in PNG, Hon. Salote Rarodro, leader of the Opposition in Fiji Parliament and Dorosday Kenneth, Director of Women’s Affairs in Vanuatu. - Factors inhibiting and enabling women’s political participation were documented by a study commissioned by the project. This research on Women’s leadership and political participation in 10 selected constituencies in Solomon Islands used an approach including historical analysis, surveys and group discussions to contribute to enhance the knowledge on barriers and to identify/recommend strategies to increase women’s political representation in the Solomon Islands. The findings of the research informed the integrated initiative and action plan in support of women candidates developed by SECSIP. - SECSIP action plan to support women candidates is to be implemented within seven-month. The plan focuses on capacity 	
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				<p>building (trainings for aspiring candidates during pre-nomination phase and candidate schools, post-nomination phase), constituency profiling, and resource support and will be implemented in three phases.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - SECSIP supported a discussion on 11th September with potential women candidates on preparation and plans for approaching national and provincial elections. A total of 17 people (including 15 women) participated in this discussion. 	
<p>OVERALL OUTPUT PROGRESS RESULTS</p> <p>RESULTS</p> <p>Consolidation of information from QPR 1,2,3 and 4. To be done at Q4 reporting period as this contributed to ROAR Section B and IWP EA Reporting</p> <p><i>Progress Keys:</i></p> <p>On Track</p>					

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

<i>Implementing Partner (IP) and Focal Point Contact (Title, email, fax, phone, address)</i>	<i>Type of Partnerships/Role</i>	<i>Duration of Partnership</i>	<i>Progress of Partnership (**) Deliverables (link to indicator (s))</i>
GPCW, HoH, Tefila, Friends of the City, ACOM, Stages of Change, TSI	Formal/ grantee	6 month	Carrying out face to face awareness campaign. Ahead of voter registration, these CSOs conducted face to face awareness activities in 147 communities of 9 provinces.

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SolRice	Formal	3 month	SolRice distributed 110,000 leaflets informing voters that they must register and check the Provisional Voter List for omissions and corrections. The Association of People with Disabilities (PWD) collaborated in this innovative action inserting the leaflets into the self-adhesive envelopes which will be adhered to the 40lb bags of rice.
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PART 3: RISK and ASSUMPTIONS - Update the Risk Log on this section (This can be updated directly in ATLAS).

<i>Risk</i>	<i>Mitigation Action</i>	<i>Timeframe</i>	<i>Progress of Mitigation Action (s)</i>
Engagement of stakeholders by the Electoral Commission is not as extensive as originally envisaged	Phase II envisages key activities to enhance engagement of relevant stakeholders (public, government ministries, donors and CSOs) to continue building collaboration mechanisms with governmental and civil society with a view to have ample participation and awareness on key reform aspects.	Ongoing	A number of meetings, grant support, and workshops organized with key stakeholders, including MASI, Church, SolRice, and 6 Civil Society Organisations were conducted to improve their engagement in the dissemination of voter education.
The amendments of the Electoral Legal Framework are passed by Parliament close to the election. SIEC capacity and resources to adopt the necessary measures may fall short due to resource constraints in a timely fashion	The project should have adequate capacity to react and mitigate/manage the situation including through the coordinated actions of multilateral and bilateral for support and technical advice of OSIEC staff	Ongoing	The amendment of the Electoral Reform has passed by Parliament. A graduate programme established which deployed 10 graduates in different sections of SIEC to improve the human resource capacity.
Capacity constraints in key institutions: SIEC, and OEC in the Ministry of Home Affairs to implement and participate in project activities	Careful and pragmatic prioritisation, planning and sequencing of project activities together with stakeholders to achieve that: project activities are reflected in stakeholders annual plans, that updates to the Project Board on potential challenges and mitigation strategies are identified early, that change leaders are identified early, and over ambitious scheduling is avoided. Ensure that the pace of implementation is appropriate to avoid 'project fatigue' and matches the absorptive capacity.	Achieved through a clear monitoring and evaluation plan successfully running by December 2018.	An Electoral Operation Specialist is on board to ease the SEIC operation. He already prepared an operational plan and work close with SIEC Head of Operation to implement the plan timely. IUNV M&E Officer started implementing the Monitoring & Evaluation plan and keeping track of project progress.

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	Ensure the scope of activities and terms of references are endorsed by stakeholders.		
Voter registration update does not enfranchise all eligible citizens or the data is lost/impaired	<p>The roll has not been updated since 2014. Citizens who have turned out 18 (an important segment of the voting population) need to be included</p> <p>Those who have deceased have to be deleted from the roll.</p> <p>SECSIP Phase II will endeavour to support SIEC in its awareness and outreach efforts targeting key segments of the population to encourage new entries in the roll with a view to ensure an inclusive and reliable roll</p>	December 2017 to December 2018	Voter registration has completed in September 2018. It will listed for objection and omission soon.
Natural disasters that impact directly on stakeholder priorities and ability to implement and participate in activities under the project.	Ensure flexible schedule for activity implementation to minimise potential impact on outputs and ensure sequenced and timely implementation of project activities, with adjustments made where necessary.	Ongoing	During the reporting period, no impact to project activities has been caused by natural disasters.
Political climate of instability hampers electoral reform efforts	SECSIP II has provided ongoing technical support to the Electoral Reform Task Force in its role as an advisory body for the electoral and political reform. Flexible schedules for the reform process will be established with identification of expert advice to be provided at each stage of the process, even under strict deadlines and time constraints.	Ongoing	Stable political situation is observed during this reporting period

PART 4: KNOWLEDGE MANAGEMENT AND COMMUNICATION

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

- A study completed on ‘Women leadership and political participation’. This study documents the barriers and scope of women’s political participation in Solomon Islands. The study report was shared with wider stakeholders.
- A presentation was provided on findings from the study ‘Women leadership and political participation’ at the UNDP Country Office on the 24th July in presence of UNDP Governance and several staff from different projects (PBF, Anti-Corruption). Reports were also shared with UNDP Pacific Office.

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- At the activity level, SECSIP improved the awareness of voters through voter awareness stickers, brochures, T-shirts, etc. across all provinces. SMS text messages were also sent out three times a week advising eligible registrants on procedures and process, what and where through BeMobile. Registration Officers also conducted the awareness talks, and distributed posters and pamphlets in constituencies. The institutional website of the Electoral Office was also updated regularly which resulted in an increase in the number of visitors during September.

PART 5: KEY LESSONS LEARNT AND CHALLENGES (optional)

List key challenges experienced in this quarter.

As per the project document and annual workplan, SECSIP had been actively supporting the biometric voter registration (BVR) system and the preparations of the voter registration update under “output 1” of the project. During the last few months, BVR technical assistance provided by SECSIP focused on sustainability of the system, given the concerns with the international vendor who set up the system in the first place in terms of transfer of know-how and hardware issues. Nevertheless, in June OSIEC informed SECSIP that it had engaged the initial international vendor to do the same job that SECSIP was already engaged on. The international vendor was engaged to work on an upgraded version of the BVR software, and to conduct the set-up of the data-center built by SECSIP, the testing of registration kits before deployment, the treatment of data utilizing the server equipment procured by UNDP as well as the sorting out of technical glitches in readiness for the commencement of the voter registration update. The unilateral decision by OSIEC to engage the international vendor to do the work in the SECSIP workplan resulted in the suspension of activities under “output 1”, terminating the contracts of the experts recruited for the job, and this with the view of ensuring that donor funds derive maximum value and impact without duplication. UNDP position on withdrawal from Output 1 was communicated orally and in writing to the CEO, SIEC Commissioners and international partners in a letter from the Country Director of UNDP Pacific Office on 8 August 2018.

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

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

Output	Activity Result	Planned Key Activities	Total revised Budget (USD)	Amount Spent USD (Jul-Sep Only)	Balance (USD) (TB-cumulative spent till Sep)
Output 1	Sustainability of and inclusiveness of registration system enhanced	- National voter registration. - Support to BVR and election procurement. - Support to SIEC on BVR database management. - Technical advice	118,500	-	-
Output 2	Enhanced capacity of SIEC to manage an electoral cycle	-Graduate programme -Support to SIEC electoral operation.	1,179,500	387,499.24	542,504.19
Output 3	Strategic ability of the SIEC to coordinate and conduct a voter/civic education enhanced	-Voter awareness campaign. - Partnerships with CSOs	263,000	145,540.5	2603.43
Output 4	Strengthened capacity of PPC,SIEC and other actors involved in the reform process	-Engagement of a legal adviser/legislative drafter - Support to PPC	76,000	35187.19	39,113.77
Output 5	Enhanced ability of women to act as leaders & representatives	-Research on women's political leadership and participation -Capacity building of potential women candidate	317,000	47360.25	139,764.5
	Project Management	Human resource support	829,825	386,439.08	53,917.0
	GMS		188,515	83,111.21	10465.6
TOTAL			2,972,340	1,085,137.47	788,368.57