

Quarterly Report

Support to the Electoral Process in the Federal Republic of Somalia

Project Initiation Plan (PIP)

Reporting Period	First Quarter 2015
Government Counterpart	Ministry of Interior and Federal Affairs
PSG	1: Inclusive Politics
PSG priority	Priority 3: Prepare for and hold credible elections by 2016
Focus Locations:	Federal level
AWP Budget	\$815,593 (for 6 months)
Available Funds for year	\$451,698 (for 6 months)
Expenditure to date	\$101,834

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ABBREVIATIONS AND ACRONYMS

AWP	Annual Work Plan
BFC	Boundaries and Federation Commission
EISA	Electoral Institute for Sustainable Democracy in Africa
FGS	Federal Government of Somalia
JP	Joint Programme
MOIFA	Ministry of Interior and Federal Affairs
MPTF	Multi Partner Trust Fund (UN)
NIEC	National Independent Electoral Commission
PIP	Project Initiation Plan
PSGs	Peacebuilding and Statebuilding Goals
SDRF	Somalia Development and Reconstruction Facility
SIDA	Swedish International Development Agency
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNSOM	UN Special Political Mission for Somalia

SECTION 1 – KEY DEVELOPMENTS DURING THE REPORTING PERIOD

- The bill establishing the National Independent Electoral Commission (NIEC) was passed by Federal Parliament on 11 February 2015 on the last day of that parliamentary session. The UN Integrated Electoral Support Group comprising UNSOM and UNDP advisers provided advice and recommendations to the parliamentary committee together with a senior electoral consultant engaged by UNDP. Several of the recommendations that were made to the committee were adopted and reflected in the final NIEC law.
- The selection process for the nine NIEC commissioners commenced on 11 March when the Ministry of Interior and Federal Affairs (MoIFA) announced vacancies for the NIEC and the Boundaries and Federation Commission (BFC). The UN Integrated Electoral Support Group collaborated with the UNSOM Public Information Office to develop a news story and video on these vacancies for publication and broadcast by Somalia's media outlets to disseminate information widely and encourage applications.
- Two plans were developed for the physical establishment of the NIEC's office in Mogadishu: a medium term plan to establish the NIEC together with the BFC at a site on Airport Road and, in response to a request by the Prime Minister's Office, an interim plan for NIEC and BFC to be temporarily established at Villa Somalia. UNDP engaged an architect and utilized in-house engineers who conducted site assessments of both locations, drew up plans and prepared budget estimates. Preparations to procure contractors, pre-fabricated structures as well as office equipment and furniture were initiated.
- A new Joint Programme for electoral support developed together with MoIFA received initial endorsement¹ by the Somalia Development and Reconstruction Facility (SDRF) Steering Committee for funding from the UN Multi Partner Trust Fund (MPTF). The Joint Programme is for a six month period (1 April to 30 September 2015) focusing on four priority areas: (i) the physical establishment of the NIEC, (ii) capacity development of the NIEC, (iii) development of the legal framework for elections and referendum and (iv) raising awareness of the legal framework and electoral processes. The budget for the initial six month period is US \$3 million. The Joint Programme builds on the work of the Project Initiation Plan (PIP) which will roll over into the Joint Programme once that is fully established.
- During this quarter a new Prime Minister took office and a new cabinet was installed. Progress and the passage of the NIEC bill had been delayed due to political uncertainty and the preoccupation of parliament in approving the new cabinet. The bill was eventually passed on 11 February. A new minister for Interior and Federal Affairs was named as part of the new cabinet.

¹ The SDRF Steering Committee gave its full endorsement of the Joint Programme and its budget on 2 April 2015.

SECTION 2 – PROGRESS AGAINST OUTPUTS & PLANNED ACTIVITIES IN ANNUAL WORK PLAN

OUTPUT 1 – SUPPORT THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE NATIONAL INDEPENDENT ELECTORAL COMMISSION (NIEC)

Narrative update on Progress towards Output			
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> The NIEC bill was passed in February with several of the UN’s recommendations adopted and reflected in the bill. UN advisers assisted by a senior electoral consultant worked with the parliamentary committee to review the bill and provide inputs and recommendations. Two sets of site assessments and plans were prepared for the physical establishment of the NIEC and BFC. The first was for a site on Airport Road and the second upon request from the Prime Minister’s Office was for the temporary location of the NIEC and BFC at Villa Somalia. 			
Output Indicators	Baseline	Annual Target	Progress to date
1. NIEC established	1. No NIEC in place	1. NIEC established by 1 July 2015	1. The bill to establish the NIEC was passed by Federal Parliament in February. MoIFA announced vacancies for the NIEC commissioners in March. Plans for the physical establishment of the NIEC were developed and shared with the FGS.
Planned Activities as per Annual Work Plan		Progress Against Activities	
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Assessment of potential NIEC premises and recruitment of an architect to prepare proposals, draft plans and prepare a budget for the physical establishment of the NIEC. Provide advice on NIEC law. Drafting of options for NIEC organizational structure and drafting of NIEC staffing ToRs in anticipation of NIEC establishment. 		<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Architect recruited and commenced work in January. Site assessment, a draft plan and initial budget estimates were completed for the Airport Road site and a presentation was made to MoIFA. Upon request of the Prime Minister’s Office a site assessment and plans were completed and shared with the FGS for the possible temporary location for NIEC and BFC at Villa Somalia. Technical advice and recommendations were provided to the parliamentary committee on the NIEC bill. A senior electoral consultant was brought in to provide technical expertise on the NIEC bill. Several of the recommendations were reflected in the final NIEC law. 	

3. Drafting of the NIEC organizational structure and staffing ToRs will be undertaken in Q2

UNDP collaborated with the UNSOM Public Information Office for the latter to produce a news story and video for publication and broadcast by Somalia's media outlets on the NIEC and BFC vacancy announcements in order to facilitate dissemination of information and encourage applications for the vacancies. Please refer to links below for the video as well as subsequent reporting by online media.

Sources of Evidence for Results Progress and Achievements

- NIEC Bill.
- <https://vimeo.com/122844484>
- <http://www.somalicurrent.com/2015/03/25/somalia-to-recruit-national-independent-electoral-commission-for-the-2016-election/>

OUTPUT 2 – SUPPORT TO THE INCLUSIVENESS AND TRANSPARENCY OF THE ELECTORAL PROCESS

Narrative update on Progress towards Output			
<p>In this quarter the priority and focus has been on the NIEC bill and support for the development of the electoral law will take place in the upcoming quarter. Immediately following the passing of the NIEC bill in February parliament went into recess and will resume in April. Planning for the development of the electoral law will commence in earnest in the next quarter with MoIFA and parliament.</p>			
Output Indicators	Baseline	Annual Target	Progress to date
1. Number of consultations and workshops held.	1. No recent history of national electoral processes in Somalia	1. Better understanding on matters related to the electoral legal framework and/or the planning of forthcoming electoral operations	1. None as yet
Planned Activities as per Annual Work Plan		Progress Against Activities	
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Provide advice and prepare papers on electoral-related matters including electoral system and electoral law. 2. Consultations, roundtables and workshops with electoral stakeholders 3. Development of an electoral lexicon (English/Somali) and materials and factsheets on electoral-related matters and the printing and dissemination of these documents and the NIEC law. 4. Study tour/workshops for electoral stakeholders. 		<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Compilation of Somalia’s historical electoral laws is underway with electoral laws already identified and collected. Drafting of the accompanying commentary has commenced with next steps to translate Italian laws into English and to review the commentary. This compilation of laws will be a useful reference and aid in the development of the electoral law. 2. Planning for workshops to be undertaken in Q2 and Q3 are in progress with MoIFA. 3. A copy of the UN English-Arabic-French electoral lexicon is being reviewed to identify English terms that can be used in the English/Somali lexicon. 4. Planning for an electoral workshop for MoIFA in Q2 is in progress. 	
Sources of Evidence for Results Progress and Achievements			
To be provided next quarter.			

OUTPUT 3 – SUPPORT TO THE COORDINATION OF ELECTORAL ASSISTANCE PROVIDERS

Narrative update on Progress towards Output			
5. In this quarter only bilateral meetings with EISA and the Oslo Center have been held to share information.			
Output Indicators	Baseline	Annual Target	Progress to date
1. Coordination mechanism established	1. A number of international electoral assistance providers are currently supporting the Federal government of Somalia and improved coordination is required	1. More effective and coherent international electoral assistance delivery through prevention of duplication of efforts and better coordination	1. An effective coordination mechanism is not yet in place.
Planned Activities as per Annual Work Plan		Progress Against Activities	
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Electoral assistance information sharing and coordination meetings in Nairobi and Mogadishu. 2. Development and updating of a matrix mapping out electoral assistance activities undertaken by different stakeholders. 3. Planning, Implementation and Coordination Specialist 		<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Bilateral meetings were held with EISA and the Oslo Center. In addition UNDP participated in PSG1 sub-working group and working group meetings. 2. The matrix of electoral assistance will be developed in the next quarter as other electoral assistance providers develop their plans for support. 3. Recruitment of the Planning, Implementation and Coordination Specialist is underway with the selected candidate expected to be onboard in May 2015. 	
Sources of Evidence for Results Progress and Achievements			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Quarterly Report 			

OUTPUT 4 – PROJECT MANAGEMENT

Narrative update on Progress towards Output			
<p>The UNDP PIP was extended until 30 June 2015.</p> <p>A draft Joint Programme for approval by the SDRF was developed together with MoIFA. The PIP will roll over into the Joint Programme once the latter is fully established.</p> <p>Recruitment was initiated for three national assistants – Project assistant, Administrative and Finance assistant, and Procurement assistant.</p> <p>An international Operations Specialist was brought onboard on a detail assignment to support the project.</p>			
Output Indicators	Baseline	Annual Target	Progress to date
1. Project management structure strengthened.	1. Project set up in 2014 with minimal staffing	1. Effective implementation of the project and technical electoral advice given.	Recruitment initiated for further positions: Project assistant, Administrative and Finance assistant, and Procurement assistant. Operations Specialist brought onboard on detail assignment.
Planned Activities as per Annual Work Plan		Progress Against Activities	
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Project management. 2. Office equipment purchased. 3. Meetings of Steering Committee/Project Board. 		<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Recruitment initiated for additional positions. 2. Operations Specialist brought onboard on detail assignment to support purchase of office equipment. 3. Project Board meeting postponed to April to coincide with the new Joint Programme Project Board meeting. 	
Sources of Evidence for Results Progress and Achievements			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ToRs for new staffing posts. 			

SECTION 3 – CROSS-CUTTING ISSUES (GENDER, PEACE AND CONFLICT, HUMAN RIGHTS)

Two of the key recommendations by UN advisers on the NIEC bill were to set a minimum number of women commissioners and to broaden the criteria for NIEC membership to enable more women to qualify as commissioners. These were reflected in the final NIEC law which provides for a minimum of two out of the nine commissioners to be women (the recommendation had been for a minimum of three out of nine) and includes experience working for civil society as one of the possible criteria to qualify as commissioner.

SECTION 4 – CHALLENGES / LESSONS LEARNT

The main achievement in this quarter was the passing of the NIEC bill incorporating several of the UN’s recommendations. The bill was passed on the last day of the session despite concerns that passage of the bill would be postponed due to parliament’s preoccupation with approving the new cabinet. The determination of the Speaker and FGS to prioritize the NIEC bill together with continued engagement by UN leadership with the FGS leadership were instrumental in enabling the bill to be passed without further delay. Similar engagement with the FGS will be necessary to ensure that the appointment of the NIEC commissioners and drafting of the electoral law are expedited in the next quarter.

SECTION 5 – RISK MANAGEMENT

Type of Risk ²	Description of Risk	Mitigating Measures
POLITICAL	Possible delay in passing the NIEC bill.	UN leadership to continue high-level engagement with FGS leadership and Speaker of the House on passing the NIEC bill as priority legislation.
POLITICAL	The process of selecting and appointing NIEC commissioners may take a considerable amount of time.	UN leadership to continue high-level engagement with FGS leadership on appointing the NIEC commissioners in a timely manner.
POLITICAL	Lack of clarity on the physical location of the NIEC office in Mogadishu.	UN to continue to seek clarity from FGS on the physical location for the NIEC.
POLITICAL	Possible delay in initiating the drafting process for the electoral law.	UN to continue to engage with MoIFA to expedite drafting of the electoral law.
SECURITY	Security conditions adversely impact the frequency with which UN advisers can work closely with MoIFA, NIEC, Parliament and stakeholders.	UN to use alternative means such as videoconferencing or use offices at Villa Nabad and/or Villa Somalia to meet with counterparts and stakeholders.

² Environmental; Financial; Operational; Organizational; Political; Regulatory; Security; Strategic; Other.

SECTION 7 – FINANCIAL REPORT

Donor	Total funds committed	Available resources for the year	Contribution as % of AWP	Disbursed	Balance ³	% Delivery	Comments
Norway	350,000	(13,895)	0%	5,887	(19,782)	1%	
SIDA	250,000	250,000	31%	-	250,000	0%	
UNDP (TRAC)	215,593	215,593	26%	95,947	119,646	12%	
TOTAL	815,593	451,698	55%	101,834	349,864	12%	

³ Available resource for the year minus funds disbursed till now.