



TIMOR-LESTE



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ANNUAL PROGRESS REPORT 2017



THE ELECTORAL PROJECT: LEVERAGING ELECTORAL ASSISTANCE FOR REGIONALIZED NATION-BUILDING (LEARN)

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About the Project	Geographic coverage of the project	
Project Title: Leveraging Electoral Assistance for Regionalized Nation-Building (LEARN) Award ID: 00086475 Web link: www.tl.undp.org	National level coverage (Yes/No): Yes Number of Municipalities covered: 12 and the Autonomous Region of OeCusse Number of Suco Covered: 452, all sucos of the country	
Strategic Results		
UNDP Strategic Plan Outcome: Parliaments, constitution making bodies and electoral institutions enabled to perform core functions for improved accountability, participation and representation, including for peaceful transition Electoral Systems and Processes.		
UNDAF Outcome: By 2019, state institutions are more responsive, inclusive, accountable and decentralized for improved service delivery and realization of rights particularly of the most excluded groups.		
UNDAF/CPAP Output: Output 3.3: Capacities and systems of sub-national institutions developed to provide more efficient, accountable and accessible services to citizens, particularly for the rural poor and other disadvantaged. Output 3.4: Democratic, including electoral processes, to promote inclusion and citizen's voice strengthened.		
Project Duration	Implementing Partner(s)	Implementation Modality
Start Date: 12 August 2016 End Date: 31 December 2019	1. National Commission for Elections (CNE) 2. Technical Secretariat for Electoral Administration (STAE)	DIM
Project Budget (US\$)		
Budget 2017:	US\$ 2,443,133	
Expenditure 2017:	US \$ 1,869,524	
Budget Utilization %	77%	

Signature: _____

Name: Claudio Providas, Country Director
On Behalf of UNDP CO

Date: 11/06/2018

Signature: _____

Name: Acilino Branco, Director-General, STAE
On behalf of Project Board

Date: 11/06/18

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Acronyms

CNE	:	National Commission for Elections
CP	:	Conselho de Imprensa (Press Council)
CPD	:	Country Programme Document for Timor-Leste 2015-2019
CPAP	:	UNDP Country Programme Action Plan
CSOs	:	Civil Society Organisations
CTA	:	Chief Technical Adviser
DPA	:	UN Department of Political Affairs
EAD	:	Electoral Assistance Division UN
LEARN	:	Leveraging Electoral Assistance for Regionalized Nation-Building Project
MOFFE	:	Movimentu Feto Foin Sae Timor-Leste (Womens NGO)
NAM	:	Need Assessment Mission
OPAC	:	Okinawa Peace Assistance Center
RDTL	:	Democratic Republic of Timor-Leste
RTTL	:	Radio Television of Timor-Leste
SP	:	UNDP Strategic Plan 2014-2017
STAE	:	Technical Secretariat for Electoral Administration
UNEST	:	United Nations Electoral Support Team in Timor-Leste
UNDAF	:	United Nations Development Assistance Framework Timor-Leste 2015-2019
UNDP	:	United Nations Development Programme

1. Executive Summary

UNDP is providing technical assistance to the Election Management Bodies of Timor-Leste (STAE and CNE) to enhance institutional capacity for managing and implementing national and local elections through an electoral cycle approach in areas such as voter registration, voter and civic education, planning, operations, with special focus on increased political participation of women, elders, people with physical disabilities and youth at the Local and National Level and enhancing civic knowledge, awareness and engagement of citizens in democratic processes.

To achieve this output UNDP has provided support to the different electoral strategies for 2017 presidential and parliamentary elections. Different approaches were adopted to increase the awareness of electoral processes to the voters especially the most vulnerable groups including youth, women, elder citizens and people with disabilities. The first-time and youth voters (17-30 years old) represents 51% of the total voters in the country of 760,907. This strategy helped increase in the number of voters by 18% in comparison to 2012. The voter education strategy helped the project see the voter's turnout increase to 76.74% in the 2017 Parliamentary Elections one of the highest in the recent story of the country. There was a total of 843 polling centers including nine mobile voting places in hospitals and prisons. This parliamentary election witnessed a voter turnout of 76.74% higher than that of the Presidential Elections held in March. For the first-time sex-disaggregated voter turnout data was collected recording 48.58% as women voters. Invalid votes of 1.99% was recorded in the election which was below the international standard. From the 20 political parties and one coalition that contested the parliamentary elections, only five parties could secure seats in the parliament as per the constitutional provision of 4% threshold. There were also 35.38% of women representation in the parliament.

UNDP facilitated capacity building of EMBs for conducting elections professionally. The technical assistance was provided to train more than 11,000 EMB staff, polling officers and staff of which 50% were women. UNDP also supported in organising trainings and orientation programmes for more than 5000 national and international observers and more than 500 media representatives. Similarly, the voter education strategy was supplemented with support to the community radio stations to enhance voter and civic education at the community level. Community radio journalists from targeted municipalities were trained in political journalism and their understanding on electoral and political processes was strengthened. Capacity building of journalists and mainstream media has been enhanced especially during elections resulting in more accurate information being provided to the citizens. UNDP electoral project partnered with Press Council to strengthen skills and knowledge of journalists for political reporting, as well as to support the institution in organising the political debates and the "Political Parties Meet the Press" Sessions during the period before the parliamentary elections.

Among other areas of logistical support are: the design and publication of the electoral operational calendar to conduct voter registration, ensuring public display of provisional voter lists and identification and publishing of polling stations locations. Furthermore, the training of election staff, production of training manuals, procurement of indelible ink, finalising the ballot paper design, accreditation of political party agents, observers and media, results management systems, legal framework and conducting voter education campaigns, were all areas where the contribution in strengthening the institutions has been provided by UNDP.

For the first-time sex-disaggregated voter turnout data was collected in an electoral process recording a total of 48.58% as women voters in the elections. This was possible due to the strong lobby and support the project. The legislation was revised to guarantee that 50% polling staff were women during the elections in 2017. The implementation of an intensive voter education strategy produced the lowest percentage of invalid votes of 1.7%, in comparison in the case of 2012, it was recorded as 3.83%.

There has been a major development in the parliament in terms of women representation. The law has been changed to increase the participation of women. During the parliamentary elections, as the country follows the

closed and blocked list of proportional representation system, the political parties are required to submit a list of candidates on which every third person is female. In this five-year term the representation of women in the parliament was 35.3% the highest in Asia. The project is making efforts to implement activities in cooperation with women civil societies to increase their participation, at the time when there is a possibility of municipal elections in 2018.

UNDP has been following the outputs according to the issues identified in the CPD. In regard to output 3.4, from the two elections Timor-Leste had in 2017, the turnout for the parliamentary elections reached 76.74% with an increase from 74.78% in the 2012 parliamentary elections. The turnout of women in Timor-Leste was registered for the first time in 2017 Parliamentary Elections and resulted with 48.58%. The invalid votes also went down comparing data from the 2012 Presidential Elections to the 2017 Presidential Elections, from 3.83% in 2012 to 1.7% in 2017. These results were achieved as a result of the support that UNDP has provided to EMBs with voter education strategies for elections. During these elections both the EMBs demonstrated their capacity to organize well-administered, transparent and inclusive elections in a peaceful environment, respecting fundamental freedoms. The assistance provided in the development of the strategy would not only serve the EMBs for this election, but the approach of building capacity for the long run, will support them to be able to utilize professional results in the future without the support of UNDP. Moreover, the approach has been successful in ensuring gender balance in the electoral processes to certain extent as during the elections, it managed to deploy 50% women as polling staff or officers.

2. Background and Context

(Maximum half page)

The Electoral Project- LEARN has been supporting the Election Management Bodies (EMBs) of Timor-Leste through technical assistance in an electoral cycle approach. After its commencement of project activities and subsequent support to the Suco Elections in 2016, the project has been delivering and conducting activities based on the Annual Work Plan and support to Presidential and Parliamentary Elections in 2017. These supports have been creating and sustaining an environment for inclusive and responsive electoral and political processes. The assistance has also been linked and reinforced with programmes in other areas related to gender equality and participation of youth and people with disabilities.

The project builds on the backdrop of strengthening EMBs to conduct and manage elections in the country. In 2017, Timor-Leste witnessed periodic elections to elect the new President of the Republic and also the representations of the 65 members in the parliament through elections using proportional representation system. As the focus was elections, an important task for the project was to support the EMBs in enhancing civic knowledge through awareness and engagement of citizens in democratic processes. An additionally highly important element of the project was the support in increasing the participation of youth and women in the electoral processes and promoting participation of people with disabilities to ensure their rights.

The government of Timor-Leste, stakeholders, citizens have been participatory in the whole process. The two elections in 2017 had a peaceful transfer of power from one President to another and one government to another. The government conducted successful elections showing real commitment to democratic values and as envisioned in the project document, the turnout of the elections was high keeping the invalid votes to minimum according to the international standards.

3. Project summary and objectives

(maximum one page)

The Electoral Project- LEARN was developed to provide technical assistance to the national authorities responsible for managing the electoral process supporting the presidential, parliamentary, suco (village) and municipal elections with a focus on institutional capacity building and civic and voter education. In the mid of 2016, the project with the joint support from Government of Japan and Korea commenced assisting to the EMBs for social inclusion focusing on youth and women in a multi-tier governance and strengthening the rule of law until December 2018.

The immediate support from the project in 2016 was assisting the EMBs to conduct elections in 442 Sucos (villages) limiting to technical support and production of sensitive electoral material like ballot paper and other logistics arrangements. Besides the limited staff in 2016, concrete support was provided to voter education in partnership with civil society organization and several communication materials were produced and broadcasted encouraging voters to participate in the Suco elections.

Simultaneously, necessary human resources were recruited by the project in 2017 following the inception of the project in 2016. Staff possessing experience in the field of electoral assistance especially in electoral legal framework, civic and voter education, communications and project management were recruited based on project's objectives to enhance the capacity of state institutions for sensitizing people of Timor-Leste to participate in democratic processes. Moreover, the aim of the project has been to strengthen institutions to manage the elections independently enabling to perform better for providing improved service delivery and inclusion of the most excluded groups in the electoral processes. The focus was set to strengthened electoral institutions performing their core functions for accountability, participation and representation in the electoral

processes. Efforts are made towards developing the capacities of relevant institutions to provide accessible services for people of Timor-Leste especially for those living in the rural areas of the country.

In order to achieve the objective of the project, activities have been designed to address the need of the capacity enhancement of the EMBs under well-defined outputs. The project through achieving its output is contributing to UNDP Strategic Plan Outcome for enabling electoral institutions to perform their core functions being accountable and participatory for peaceful transition of electoral system and processes. Strengthening citizen's voice and promoting inclusion through democratic electoral processes is one of the outputs of the Country Programme Document where the project is heavily focused. Emphasis is also put on building the capacities of national institutions for providing efficient, accountable and accessible services to citizens especially of the rural, poor and disadvantaged groups.

Outputs are those results which are achieved immediately after implementing an activity. The project has four outputs outlined with activities that are contributing to achieve such outputs.

Output 1: Enhanced civic knowledge, awareness, and engagement of citizens in local and national democratic processes.

Output 2: Increased political participation of women and youth at the local and national level

Output 3: Enhanced institutional capacity of CNE and STAE to manage and implement national and local elections through an electoral cycle approach

Output 4: Increased sustainability of voter registration and electoral results management systems

4. Narrative on Key Results Achieved in 2017

(maximum three pages)

The UNDP project builds on the achievements of previous UNDP electoral assistance and aims to provide technical assistance to Timorese Electoral Management Bodies (EMBs), throughout the entire electoral cycle, (pre-electoral, electoral and post-electoral period) with a strong focus on electoral legal framework, civic and voter education, and electoral results management system.

The project supported the electoral processes for 2017 Presidential and Parliamentary elections and elections in additional Sucos in 2017. The areas of the support were: electoral legal framework, voter and civic education, institutional strengthening and capacity building of the EMBs, procurement of sensitive materials and national tabulation. The project provided tailored technical assistance to EMBs- STAE and the CNE, to strengthen their capacities through an electoral cycle approach.

Aside from EMBs, a broad range of stakeholders were also targeted to ensure that both, the election institutions and the capacities of the democratic actors were built to ensure the sustainability of assistance and consolidation of local and national democracy, more concretely of civil society organizations, media, governmental institutions and political parties.

As previously mentioned, Timor-Leste in 2017 conducted two major elections- Presidential and Parliamentary Elections. The presidential election was conducted on March 20 for electing the fourth President through a direct electoral system, whereas the third Parliamentary Elections held on July 22 to elect the Seventh Constitutional Government for Timor-Leste through closed and blocked-list proportional representation system. Both these

elections were held in peaceful manner without significant reports of violence and taking place in 12 municipalities and the autonomous region in the country and six places for out of country voting.

4.1 Progress on Outputs

Output 1: Enhanced civic knowledge, awareness, and engagement of citizens in local and national democratic processes.

Voter education and training materials like flipcharts, posters, booklets have been produced and made available to EMBs for National elections to provide trainings to polling staff at national and sub-national levels. Three Videos were designed and developed to impart information in a visual manner during training for better understanding of electoral procedures and subsidiary electoral legislation. These materials were based on electoral legislations and were disseminated to 12 municipalities and one autonomous region.

Elections	Municipalities	Polling Centers	Polling stations	Polling staff
Presidential Election	13	696	944	10102
National Parliament Elections	13	843	1118	11180

In addition, support was also provided in developing and dissemination of public information materials like voter registration and voting process posters, billboards as part of voter education. Such materials have been produced to increase the awareness of electoral processes to the voters especially focusing on the first-time and youth voters. These age bracket (17-30) of voters consist of 51% of the total voters in the country of 760,907. Furthermore, STAE implemented an extensive voter registration campaign throughout the country to update the voter registration list to thereafter include as many eligible voters as possible in light of the upcoming general elections. In this campaign, targeted at the parliamentary elections, informative materials were developed targeting youth and first-time voters. As a result, there was an increase of more than 17,000 voters between 2017 Presidential and National Parliament Elections mostly youth and first-time voters.

To increase the public awareness, the LEARN project partnered with Radio Television of Timor-Leste (RTTL) to produce and broadcast weekly TV programme for Voter Education. During the pre-electoral period for both Presidential and Parliamentary elections, weekly episodes were produced on areas like voting registration, urging voters to participate in the registration process, as well as simulation of voting process to reduce the number of invalid votes. In recent years, the reach of the TV in Timor-Leste has significantly increased. The recent survey conducted has shown that the TV has reach 67% coverage in Timor-Leste and 88% of reach in Dili alone which has the highest percentage of voters in the country. The TV programmes were not only broadcasted on national TV but also posted on websites and shared continuously through social media. This strategy has been used to capture the mobile reach in Timor-Leste, which at present is rapidly increasing. Currently, Timor-Leste access to mobile phones has jumped from 10% in 2006 to 71% in 2012 and this is growing every day. Therefore, this platform is necessary to be applied for creating awareness on elections for Timorese citizens to participate in democratic processes.

Strengthening the awareness among citizens, the project produced several videos as part of support to EMBs regarding civic and voter education. Videos in the form of PSAs describe key messages of sustaining democracy and establishing social harmony and national unity during elections. They pronounced messages that are relevant to the people for participating in the elections and expressing it freely. There were certain videos focused on the correct way of voting on Election-Day providing the information on the structure of the ballot paper whereas another video stresses to the people to refrain from campaign activities that are forbidden by law and considered as election crimes (illicitos eleitorais). The videos were developed within the project and massively promoted through social media of UNDP and other platforms like national TV and public screens around Dili.

Through a five-days training, the journalists of these community radio stations were able to produce and broadcast news, drama, talk shows and public service announcements (PSAs) in local dialects. For the parliamentary elections, they were trained to hold several political debates among political parties before the elections as there were 20 political parties and one coalition contesting the elections for the national parliament. These journalists of the community radio stations were also oriented by representatives from STAE and CNE to provide accurate messages from the radio stations with emphasis on peaceful political campaign and increase in participation on Election-Day. This activity has contributed to the participation of Timorese in the electoral processes as the turnout in the parliamentary elections has been increased from 74% in 2012 to 76% in 2017. The elections have been peaceful without any violence reported and political parties have widely accepted the results.

Training programme for journalists and senior editors was conducted before the elections to enhance their capacity on the concept of political journalism. The training participated by more than 80 journalists increased their knowledge on the coverage and editing of news on electoral processes and procedures for the parliamentary elections. The content highlighted different approach to the coverage of elections for different media like radio, TV and newspaper.

Support to the community radio stations has been one of the key areas of the project during the Parliamentary elections. The community radio stations of Dili, Manatuto, Aileu and Liquica were identified for building the capacity of the journalists to produce radio programmes on civic and voter education. The project partnered with Okinawa Peace Assistance Centre (OPAC) who specialized in building the capacity of the community radio stations and coordinated the training programme and other outreach activities.

Codes of conduct furthermore, provide essential principles to guide actions of media and journalists. The Press Council and LEARN project developed a code of conduct for media and journalists for presidential and parliamentary elections, enunciated several principles that are relevant to journalists in election coverage like accuracy, impartiality, avoiding the use of language or sentiments that promote violence or discrimination and correction of inaccurate factual reporting. These principles published were also the basic guidelines for the trainers while providing orientation to the journalists and media houses by the election management bodies.

In addition, the project supported the Press Council to organize an international conference on "The Role of Press Council Towards a Democratic Society" in promoting press freedom and freedom of expression in South-East Asia and the Pacific. Media fraternity of the South-East Asia and Pacific Region participated in the conference that was held in Dili on 9-10 May. A round table discussion on the roles of media, press freedom and obstacles for freedom of expression was convened during the conference. The conference laid out a declaration to commit in establishing a working body to held and protect the local and regional journalists for full endorsement of due rights, promoting vital notions such as freedom of expression and right to information assimilated by every citizen and tackling, fake news and other obstacles that have been disrupting the free flow of information.

Output 2: Increased political participation of women and youth at the local and national level

The generational change in politics was most pronounced in the 2017 elections when 51% of the total voters of 760,907 were young and first-time voters. Youth make up most of the population with 62% of Timorese being under the age of 25, therefore targeting this age classification of population was deemed necessary for political engagement and long-term impact. The meaningful political participation of youth ensured through elections was also important that their voices on a range of development issues are heard, inter-generational knowledge is shared, and innovation and critical thinking are encouraged to support social change.

For meaningful participation of youth and first-time voters, the project as part of support to STAE conducted campaign *Joven Vota*- a Voter Education Event to encourage young people of Timor-Leste to participate in the electoral and political process for the National Parliament Elections. *Joven Vota* programme was designed and developed to interact and communicate with young and first-time voters of Timor-Leste- to enhance first time voter's interest in the election by understanding the voting process; to motivate young people to participate in the election through an interactive discussion; and to highlight the importance of voting and youth engagement. The event was conducted in Dili where the city has more than 90,000 young voters registered in the voter's list. This event was jointly organized with STAE to implement an advocacy campaign for increasing women and youth's political participation in the 2017 National Parliament Elections. Focusing on youth, this event ensured voter education strategies sharing youth's expectations from the next parliament, statements from youth representatives to motivate youth to realize their expectation by participating in the voting process, and inspiring them to acknowledge the voting process through different interactive sessions.

The event increased the understanding of the young people of the overall process, the peak of the event brings the interactive session on electoral process for National Parliament Elections. Similarly, the video on the voting process was also able to especially enhance the knowledge on the voting process for the elections. This was reflected through the survey conducted in the post-event where 98% knew the election-date with 95% knowing the voting-age for election-as-17. Similarly, 70% of them was able to know that they will either pierce with nail or mark with pen on the ballot paper while voting for elections reducing the chances of invalid votes. Moreover, this contributed to the result of the invalid votes for the parliamentary elections of just 1.99% of the total ballots, which is below the international standard of 2.5%.

To help women pursue a political career, the project convened trainings and outreach activities to increase their understanding on electoral and political processes. These activities to certain extent curb challenges of attaining political equality in the political participation of women. The project partnered with the activity 'Ba Distritu' of Counterpart International to increase the participation of women in the Suco Council. As a result, there was an increase in the female Suco chiefs to 21 elected in 2016 elections, which is twice as much in comparison to 2010.

Similarly, activities were also conducted targeting women's participation in the 2017 parliamentary elections in national and sub-national levels, resulting in women representing 48.58% of the total voters. Through the project to STAE and CNE, the voter education targeting women was conducted to promote women's participation for the elections. The awareness programme was conducted jointly with other leading organizations - CAUCUS, PATRIA, MOFFEE and Feto Distritu Dili Association, working for the increasing the stake of women in the political process. The programme was conducted in Dili, Manatuto and Ermera Municipalities for more than 200 women. Among these women, were also the women Suco Chiefs, women Chief of Sub-Village, women representatives from different organizations, young and first-time voters. The programme in municipalities was convened by the project and election management bodies.

Moreover, the project supported the development of strategic approaches to inclusion of women in the electoral processes. Two strategies can be highlighted as the biggest achievement for the electoral processes in the country. Namely, 50% of the total polling staff deployed were women for the management of elections, which is the first time in the country. Similarly, the gender disaggregated data was also collected for the presidential and parliamentary elections where the female turnout was 47% and 48.58% respectively. As the country follows the closed-block list of proportional representation electoral system, in 2017 electoral laws ensured that every third person in the candidature list has to be female. This is quite a remarkable achievement as in the 2012 elections the requirement was every fourth person. Currently, 35.38% of the 65 Members in a Unicameral Legislature are represented by females, which is highest in Asia.

When it comes to the inclusion of people with disabilities, the project partnered with an organization working for the people with disabilities to conduct a monitoring on the accessibility to the political campaign and electoral

processes, particularly for the voting process. In the 2015 National Census of Timor-Leste 38,118 people, or 3.2 per cent of the population, identified as having a disability. However, given barriers to self-reporting a disability and the limited knowledge of census officials regarding disability, the organization believes that it is estimated to be 15% of the total country's population. Taking the necessity of accessibility for the people with disability into account, a national organization for people with disabilities, Ra'es Hadomi Timor Oan (RHTO) conducted a monitoring during the parliamentary elections with the support from the project, and produced a report on the findings.

The preliminary findings from the monitoring found that in most of the cases the polling stations were not fully accessible to people with disabilities and less importance was given to them by the political parties during the political campaign. In the report, the major recommendations were: to review voter registration regulations to allow, in accordance with requirements for protecting private information, the recording of information about a voter's disability, in order to provide better targeted electoral services to persons with disabilities; STAE to conduct an accessibility assessment of each polling center and polling station prior to each election, and to take action to improve accessibility where needed, such as by installing ramps, removing obstacles, having sufficient lighting available for voters, and ensuring accessible toilets and sanitation facilities; CNE and STAE to develop specific civic and electoral information materials that are in formats accessible for persons with physical, hearing, visual, intellectual or psychosocial disabilities.

Output 3: Enhanced institutional capacity of CNE and STAE to manage and implement national and local elections through an electoral cycle approach

The strengthening of the capacity of the EMBs, both CNE and STAE was highly relevant in the current cycle of institutional structural adjustments. It was imminent for the newly appointed and recruited staff in this electoral cycle to strengthen their capacity, in order to perform their roles and responsibilities - to better understand the technical, legal and political issues relevant to the implementation, management and supervision of the electoral processes. Similarly, the project identified areas of improvement in the capacity of CNE Commissioners, STAE leadership and both, their secretariats and staff for effective management and implementation of electoral processes and operations that meet international obligations, commitments and principles. The areas the project focused on were the electoral legal framework, election management systems, civic/voter education and public information materials and gender and social inclusion in the electoral processes.

When elections are called, deployment of polling staff and its training are essential to ensure proper administration and organizations of elections. STAE deployed 10,102 and 11,180 polling officers and polling staff for presidential and parliamentary elections respectively, of which 50% were women deployed in more than 1118 polling stations during the parliamentary elections. These polling staff were provided trainings on electoral laws, voting and counting process, polling and municipal tabulation process. The project supported the delivery and facilitation of training of trainers of all polling staff at the national and sub-national levels. It also provided onsite-technical assistance, training materials and developed consistent session contents for all trainers. The training materials that were provided contained information about current electoral procedures, electoral laws, and depictions of voting process as provided by law.

Oversight of the electoral process is an important means to protect electoral integrity, the genuine nature of elections that guarantee the free expression of the will of the voters. Electoral observation has established itself as a systematic and consolidated methodology to support national democracy. Evolving from a purely Election-Day focused perspective; it now aspires to work within the entire electoral cycle, with a broad, holistic and global outlook. The presence of observers (national and international) in an election is generally seen as a means of promoting security and credibility, and a deterrent to fraud. UNDP assisted in the training and preparation of the observer's groups.

Electoral observation missions, deployed to observe both Presidential and Parliamentary elections, aimed to provide an impartial and accurate assessment of the electoral processes in Timor-Leste, in accordance with international principles for genuine democratic elections and domestic law. Orientation sessions were provided to national and international observers to support EMBs in the fulfillment of their mandate to facilitate electoral observation in the country. Exhaustive information handbooks were provided for electoral observers and media during the orientation sessions, developed by UNDP LEARN project in collaboration with EMBs; the handbooks contained all relevant information related to total voters, EMBs focal points, polling centers and polling stations established not only in Timor-Leste, but also overseas for out of country voting. A total of 4791 national observers and 273 International Observers were accredited by STAE and the project supported the EMB in facilitating this process. STAE also accredited 520 national and 33 international media for both the elections, UNDP LEARN supported in developing training and sessions for media representatives.

Elections	National Observers	International Observers	National Media	International Media
Presidential	1508	99	310	18
Parliamentary Elections	3283	174	210	15
Total	4791	273	520	33

During the conceptualization of the project to support the EMBs, both STAE and CNE identified the legal capacity as one of the weaknesses in their organizational structures and requires continued technical support. Therefore, the project supported them in drafting and revision of the electoral legal framework and subsidiary legislation. The project provided legal advice to CNE and STAE in defining their accountability, mandate, responsibilities and functions. This ensured their effectiveness and integrity in all matters related to electoral processes.

The institutional capacity was strengthened especially while providing training to the Commissioners of CNE as well as the chiefs of departments on the updated national legal framework. All the relevant electoral legal frameworks were uploaded in the website for public viewing and references. As the EMBs are also responsible for receiving the complaints and appeals against any electoral processes the project provided technical support to review the complaints and appeals for parliamentary elections.

The national level results management system is managed by CNE after seeking all the documentation on the results (*Actas Eleitorais*) from the municipalities. The support to develop this mechanism was provided by the project during the Presidential and the Parliamentary elections. The display of the results management system was developed so that every voter, party agent and stakeholder is informed of the transparent process. This system was engrained in the organization's website and the final results before the proclamation by the Supreme Court of Justice was established. The CNE staff were also concurrently trained to get familiar with the system.

Institutional strengthening of STAE and CNE was the area where they require attention for the management and organization of elections. In particular, legal training and IT skills were the most identified area where the EMBs seek more support. In this regard, legal trainings were provided to CNE Commissioners and department chiefs. Similarly, IT training was also provided to CNE staff particularly for result management system and online display of the results. Similar trainings were also provided to technical persons of Radio Television of Timor-Leste in enhancing the capacity in producing weekly TV programmes.

Output 4: Increased sustainability of voter registration and electoral results management systems

As described above, the project provided technical support for the implementation of ICT strategies, and implementation of technologies for election management systems (results, candidate and other election specific

systems) to further strengthen the institutional capacity of the EMBs to effectively manage election cycles and deliver technically sound elections. Trainings and technical advice to individual staff was provided to implement the result management systems. In the website, each legal documentation of the election results (Actas Eleitorais) of all 843 polling centers in the country (12 municipalities, 1 autonomous region of Oe-Cusse) was published as contribution to a transparent process.

The election result management system deals with the process by which the election authority counts, tabulates, aggregates and announces the results of an election. The results of the presidential and parliamentary elections were also uploaded in the website supporting CNE to be transparent in the process. Regular on-site technical support was provided to the staff of CNE on using the information communication technology and on tackling issues that may occur while working.

In addition, websites and social media pages of STAE and CNE were regularly maintained. All the electoral legal frameworks are uploaded in the websites for people to view and understand. In the website, there was information on the D'Hondt method calculating 65 seats in the parliament based on the proportional representation system. Similarly, to promote this method and inform people about such mechanism, public service announcements have been developed to help voters, parties and stakeholders on how to virtually calculate the seats.

STAE requested support from the project to develop information campaign materials which helped in registering 760,907 voters of 1.18 million population for the parliamentary elections. The project coordinated with STAE to have the gender-disaggregated data through voter registration system which resulted in the parliamentary elections revealing 48.58% of voter turnout among the women for the first time.

5. Cross Cutting Issues

5.1 Gender Equality, Women's Empowerment, and Social Inclusion (Maximum one page)

There have been no significant efforts in the representation of women in national parliament in 2017. The percentage of female representation in the parliament in 2017 elections has been 35.28% from 38% in 2012. There are quotas provided for women to represent in the parliament but substantive up-skilling and training support to help women pursue a political career, alongside outreach and advocacy to shift the cultural norms that hamper women's political participation is the need of the hour. Focusing on female representation is necessary as outside the legal framework women still face many challenges in attaining political equality. The project focused on working with CSOs and NGOs to identify areas where the empowerment and increase in political participation is needed. Resources are mobilised by the project to attain the objective of gender equality and women empowerment in Timor-Leste through their political participation at the time when there could be a call for early national parliament elections or municipal elections.

The project supported EMBs with training programmes with respect to the strengthening the knowledge and skills in social inclusion. The contents and materials of the training programme included the best practices that are adopted by different organizations to facilitate women and youth in the political participation. Trainings and outreach activities targeting youth and women were designed incorporating human right-based approach and were facilitated by different organizations working in this sector. Moreover, the project has a strong gender perspective that is described in more details in the part focused on the outputs above.

5.2 Capacity Development and Sustainability

(Maximum one page) This section will have the following two sub-sections:

5.2.1 Capacity Development

Strengthening of the national institutions has been a key priority for the UNDP in 2017. Taking into account that 2017 was an election year, it is evident that capacities development of the EMBs has been increased. The influence of UNDP has technically equipped EMBs to manage elections professionally which are evidently provided in different observation reports. As a result, the elections that are conducted were well-administered, transparent and inclusive elections in a peaceful environment. Finally, all these efforts in capacity developments are long-term investments in the institutions and in the human resources of Timor-Leste, hopefully using and transferring this knowledge for future elections as well.

More specifically the capacity development was in the areas of policy advice for Electoral Management Bodies (EMBs) on electoral issues and long term electoral assistance on electoral legal issues (legislation, rules and procedures, political party campaigning), voter and civic education, operations & logistics, including electoral observation and party oversight were provided in the reporting period. In addition, development of all civic and voter education initiatives (documenting best practices and making recommendations for strategies and implementation approaches) and ensuring quality control in terms of electoral legal assistance was provided by the project to both CNE and STAE. Institutional strengthening of STAE and CNE was required for better management and organization of elections. In particular, legal training and IT skills were the identified area where the EMBs seek most support. In this regard, legal trainings were provided to CNE Commissioners and department chiefs. The onsite technical assistance to CNE has helped work transparently and publicize the documentations. The publication of deliberations has contributed to the integrity of the elections. It also strengthened the communications with the media, stakeholders and conduct ad hoc press conferences. Similarly, IT training was provided to CNE staff particularly for result management system and online display of the results.

UNDP has been strengthening the capacities of EMBs namely STAE and CNE. Timor-Leste follows the mixed model of election management body system. STAE is an indirect state administration service with technical and administrative autonomy. As mandate given by the law on electoral administration bodies, UNDP supported in the implementation of election operations and voter registration. STAE has six departments at the centre and its 13 municipal offices where the capacity building of its staffs were strengthened. As it is responsible for training polling officers and staff of more than 800 polling centres, UNDP provided their technical assistance in building the capacity.

The institutional capacity was strengthened especially while providing training to the Commissioners of CNE as well as the chief of departments on the updated national legal framework. The onsite technical assistance to CNE has helped work transparently and publicize the documentations. The publication of deliberations has contributed to the integrity of the elections. It also strengthened the communications with the media, stakeholders and conduct ad hoc press conferences. The support has also helped the EMB conduct and organise public debates for the national elections and establish a result management system

Furthermore, different type of training was provided to the technical persons of Radio Television of Timor-Leste focused on enhancing the capacity in producing weekly TV programmes, as the project partnered with national TV RTTL in building their capacities and amplifying civic and voter education during the electoral period. In addition, the project provided technical support to the Press Council to build capacities of journalists and media to enhance their capacity on the concept of political journalism. The project through Press Council trained journalists and media houses to organise different debate programmes with the political parties for the parliamentary elections.

Similarly, a strong focus for capacity building in the project was set to the target group of women ensuring female participation in the electoral process. This was critical since women turnout has been relatively low in Timor-Leste in the past elections. Toward this end, the project partnered with several women rights advocates civil society organizations (CAUCUS, PATRIA, MOFFEE, among others) to encourage women to participate in the electoral processes and get their voice heard. Tailored-made information and awareness raising sessions, on women political participation in the electoral process, reached more than 200 women at the municipality level. There has been more evident increase in the participation in the parliamentary elections than in the presidential elections.

5.2.2 Sustainability Strategy

The political developments in Timor-Leste have been positively influenced by the UNDP. The five-year periodic elections commitment by the government and political parties paved opportunity to provide assistance to the EMBs keeping line with the project activities. The political parties created a positive environment making elections free and without major violent incidents.

Technical assistance to the EMBs brings adequate systematic and sustainable institutional and professional changes for conducting elections in credible manner. As a result, and in addition to the rest of the activities, the project supports establishing systems, electoral processes and laws that would support the institutions for sustaining the capacity building and the organization and implementation of peaceful and credible elections in the future. The assistance of the UNDP aims at building the capacity of EMBs to take full ownership of the electoral processes, especially after the departure of UN Mission in 2012. The capacity of the EMBs has increased with time taking into account that the elections 2017 were the first elections fully independently organized by the Timorese EMBs.

Meaningful participation of youth, women, and people with disabilities in the electoral and political processes is essential to enhance their level of understanding of democracy and elections through active participation. UNDP electoral project has been reaching out to these people through different mechanisms such as building the capacity of CSOs and NGOs so that the civic participation in the electoral and political processes will remain intact, awareness raising and media campaigns and political debates.

Capacity building of media to advocate civic participation is also considered by the project. As media plays a vital role in reaching out to the people, UNDP strategy to reach this fourth pillar of democracy would ultimately instill their capacity to lead without any support in the future.

5.3 South-South Cooperation (Maximum half a page)

Electoral project- LEARN has partnered with the Press Council as part of building the capacities of journalists especially for political reporting. To promote press freedom and freedom of expression, an international conference on the role of media was organised inviting media fraternity from the South-East Asia and Pacific Region countries in exchanging ideas and sharing experiences on political reporting especially during elections. This conference has helped journalists and media on the understanding of reporting at the time when parliamentary elections was to be conducted by Timor-Leste.

Similarly, during the parliamentary elections, many national and international observers have been accredited by the election management bodies for the observation. The project provided briefing to the observers and also national and international stakeholders, development partners, international community and Civil Society for the 2017 National Elections, particularly in regard to the analysis and implications on the approved amendments of the Electoral Laws for Presidential and Parliamentary Elections and related Electoral Subsidiary Legislation and procedures.

6. Partnerships

UNDP in 2017 proved that there is a possibility to develop a strategy in a cost-sharing modality with the government. One of the highlights this year was that the government requested UNDP to procure indelible ink for the national elections. The government of Timor-Leste and UNDP reached a cost-sharing agreement to procure 9000 bottles of ink towards the contribution of integrity of elections. UNDP PSU in Copenhagen assisted in the procurement process. This was an extremely important step for UNDP as the credibility of the organization was boosted by the fact that the government had high level of trust in the process of procurement and quality of services.

7. Lessons Learned/ Implementation Issues and Challenges

(Maximum one page)

The year 2017 has been an election year in which Timor-Leste organized both, the Presidential and Parliamentary elections. The elections take place in a periodic five years. In the beginning of 2017, the president of the country announced the date for the elections for the new president of the country through a presidential decree. The project pre-planned and prepared its activities in collaboration with the EMBs for the presidential elections. However, from the initial planning of activities, the project faced several implications to implement training activities to the polling staff and briefing sessions to observers and the media. These challenges were due to delays in the promulgation of the amendments to the law and the subsidiary electoral legislations for the presidential election.

After the announcements of both elections, the EMBs, in particularly STAE who is responsible for the administration and organization of elections, had to implement its activities based on the electoral calendar. The electoral calendar is published in a national gazette and electoral activities are time bound activities for conducting a free, fair and credible elections. STAE received late funds from the government for operations and logistics implementation for the parliamentary elections. Although the project did not anticipate the support from STAE in the last minute, the project funded by the Government of Japan and Korea was able to technically support STAE in conducting activities following the calendar and supporting STAE in achieving the outcome of conducting the elections without any major issue.

8. A Specific Story

(this section is optional; maximum half a page)

Youth make up to 51% of the total voters in Timor-Leste and are major force during elections. In the Parliamentary Elections of 2017, there was an increase of 17% of young and first-time voters than in 2012. Therefore, intervention through civic and voter education was utmost important to the target group and the project's one of the main outputs has been enhancing civic knowledge, awareness, and engagement of citizens in local and national democratic processes.

Two young and first-time female voters Fatima Soares Do Rosario and Elisa Maia Baptista was queueing in the polling stations in Aidak Bihare Suco in Dili for their turn to vote. They were happy to vote for the first-time to secure their future for development.

After coming out from the voting station casting their ballots and applying the indelible ink in their fingers, these young voters said that- "we are voting in this election to secure our rights and also our future by electing representatives to develop our nation".

The election project as part of support to STAE implemented different voter education strategies for the presidential elections targeting young and first-time voters. A dedicated programme Joven Vota (Youth's Votes) was developed as a voter education strategy for this target group.

<https://web.facebook.com/jovenvotatl/?ref=bookmarks&rdc=10&rdr>

9. Programmatic Revisions

(if applicable; maximum half-page).

UNDP Electoral Project in this reporting period developed its Annual Work Plan for 2017 and was approved by the project board meeting. The activities were based on achieving the outputs of enhancing civic and voter knowledge, increasing political participation of women and youth, institutional strengthening and sustainability of voter registration and results management.

As the date for the elections for electing the President and members of National Parliament was announced in the beginning of 2017, the Government of Timor-Leste requested UNDP to support in the procurement of indelible ink. Indelible ink is used in elections to avoid multiple voting and deterrent fraud. UNDP with the support from PSU Copenhagen facilitated the procurement of ink with the funding provided by the Government itself. The project revised its programme and Annual Work Plan to include the funds received from the Government for the procurement of ink.

10. Future Work Plan or Priorities for 2018

(if project is on-going; maximum half-page)

Timor-Leste is in a situation of political impasse, where the government is in a minority position. The political developments in the country is predicting for early elections in 2018 if the government fails or there is no alternative government. UNDP is closely observing the situation and have been in constantly building rapport with the government and will keep its priorities in strengthening the EMBs based on the experiences of elections that took this in 2017. In addition, if there is no early national parliamentary election, then the government based on the decentralisation process and strategy of the government, it is highly likely that municipal elections might be announced for mid-2018. Therefore, the preparation and technical assistance to EMBs will be significant as municipal elections would be taking place for the first time in the country. At present, there are 12 municipalities and one autonomous region with the total voters so far as 760,907 with a country's population of 1.18 million. Apart from support to elections, long-term technical assistance will be continuously provided to EMBs in an electoral cycle approach. This technical assistance is provided through its project LEARN, where it will follow the Annual Work Plan that has been developed and approved for 2018.

11. Risk and Issue Logs

11.1 Risk Log Matrix

#	Description	Category (financial, political, operational, organizational, environmental, regulatory, security, strategic, other)	Likelihood of risk (scale of 1 to 5 with 5 being the most likely)	Impact (scale of 1 to 5 with 5 being the highest impact)	Mitigation measures if risk occurs	Date risk is identified	Last Updated	Status
1	Presidential and Parliamentary elections may be deviated or cancelled	Political Operational Security	3	4	This is a politically motivated risk which is beyond the scope of the project	2016	December 2017	Elections were conducted as per the plan of the government
2	Laws and regulations for President and Parliamentary Elections are passed in limited time frame for STAE and CNE to prepare	Political Operational Regulatory	3	4	The project does not have roles then to wait for the laws and regulations to be passed to technically assist STAE and CNE for the preparation of both the elections.	2016	December 2017	Although the laws were passed just before the elections, elections were conducted successfully.
3	While the voter registration process is one of the strengths of the overall Timorese election architecture, concerns are raised related to the accuracy of the voters roll in the future, as updates processes fail to identify voters who should be deleted from the list and multiple registration.	Operational Organizational	3	3	The project has been continuously assisting the voter's roll to strengthen the data collection and analysis	2016	December 2017	Assisted STAE in making the process and system accurate.

11.2 Issue Log Matrix

#	Type	Date Identified	Description and Comments	Resolution measures recommended	Status of the issue	Status Change Date
1.	New anticipated assistance needs arise during the implementation of the project	January 2017	Procurement of indelible ink for the presidential and parliamentary elections	The project provided its technical assistance with UNDP Country Office and UNDP PSU Copenhagen for the procurement of 9000 bottles of indelible ink for the presidential and parliamentary elections	The issue was resolved without any complaints of the quality of the ink or delay in the procurement.	August 2017

12. Progress against annual targets

Indicator	Baseline	Target	Data as of 2016	2017 Target	2017 Actual data	Data Source
<p>CPD and IRRF Outcome indicator</p> <p>Output_2.1</p> <p>Number of voters registered for democratic participation</p>	<p>Year: 2012</p> <p>Number of Registered Electorates in the Presidential Elections 2012- 626,503</p> <p>(Gender Disaggregated data- Not Available)</p>	<p>Year: 2018</p> <p>20% Increase in number of registered electorates</p>	<p>Year: 2016</p> <p>11% Increase in number of registered electorates in the Suco Elections 2016.</p> <p>(Gender Disaggregated data not available)</p>	<p>18% Increase in number of registered electorates for the Parliamentary Elections.</p>	<p>Total of Registered Voters for 2017 National Parliament Elections: 760,907</p> <p>Male: 51.65%</p> <p>Female: 48.35%</p> <p>17% Increase in number of registered electorates in comparison with the baseline data (year 2012).</p>	<p>Technical Secretariat for Electoral Administration (STAE)</p>
<p>Output_ 2.1</p> <p>Percentage of Voter Turnout (as an indication greater democratic participation)</p>	<p>Year: 2012</p> <p>Voter Turnout in the Presidential Elections 2012- 72.55%</p> <p>(Gender Disaggregated Turnout- Not available)</p>	<p>Year: 2018</p> <p>75% Voter Turnout in the National Parliament Elections</p> <p>50% women in the National Parliament Elections</p>	<p>Year 2016:</p> <p>Not Available</p>	<p>Year 2017:</p> <p>75% Voters' turnout in the National Parliament Elections</p> <p>50% women vote in the National Parliament Elections</p>	<p>Voter turnout in the 2017 Presidential Elections: 71.16%</p> <p>47% women voted in the 2017 Presidential Elections.</p> <p>Voter turnout in the 2017 Parliamentary Elections: 76.74%</p>	<p>National Commission for Election (CNE)</p> <p>Technical Secretariat for Electoral Administration (STAE)</p>

<p>Output_2.1 Percentage of invalid ballots decrease indicating the effectiveness of voter education</p>	<p>Year: 2012 Invalid Ballots in the Presidential election: 2012- 3.83%</p>	<p>Year: 2018 Invalid Ballots to be below 2% in National Parliament Elections</p>	<p>Year: 2016 Not Available</p>	<p>Year: 2017 Invalid ballots to be below 2% in National Parliament Elections</p>	<p>Presidential Election 2017 witnessed 1.7% invalid ballots. Parliamentary Election 2017 witnessed 1.9% invalid ballots.</p>	<p>National Commission for Election (CNE)</p>
<p>Output_2.1 Percentage of women as polling staff for elections</p>	<p>Year: 2012 Number of women polling staff deployed- Not Available</p>	<p>Year: 2018 50% women as polling staff for elections in the Parliamentary Election.</p>	<p>Year: 2016 Not Available</p>	<p>Year: 2017 At the 2017 National Parliament Elections 50% of the Polling Staff to be women.</p>	<p>There was a total of 10,102 polling staff deployed for the 2017 presidential and parliamentary elections, i.e. <u>50% of the total polling staff were women.</u></p>	<p>Technical Secretariat for Electoral Administration (STAE)</p>

13. Budget and Expenditure

The following table shows the budget and expenditure for 2017

Activities	Approved Budget 2017	Expenditure
<i>Output 1. Enhanced civic knowledge, awareness, and engagement of citizens in local and national democratic processes</i>		
Voter and Civic Education	626,105	549,925
Sub Total	626,105	549,925
<i>Output 2. Increased political participation of women and youth at the local and national level</i>		
Outreach campaign for election	262,350	49,094
Sub Total	262,350	49,094
<i>Output 3. Enhanced institutional capacity of CNE and STAE to manage and implement national and local elections through an electoral cycle approach</i>		
Technical assistance to Electoral Management Bodies (EMBs)	634,271	513,873
Sub Total	634,271	513,873
<i>Output 4. Increased sustainability of voter registration and electoral results management systems</i>		
ICT support to enhance electoral management bodies (EMBs)	376,997	304,159
Sub Total	376,997	304,159
<i>Output 5. Project management</i>		
Operational Costs	418,410	327,473
Sub Total	418,410	327,473
<i>Output 6. Procurement of Electoral Material</i>		
Sub Total	125,000	125,000
Total	2,443,133	1,869,524