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UN Electoral Support Project (UNESP)

2019 SECOND QUARTERLY PROGRESS REPORT



DONORS



PROJECT INFORMATION

Project ID:	00105005
Duration:	01 October 2017 – 31 December 2019
ANDS Component:	Governance, Rule of Law, Human Rights
Contributing to NPP & ANPDF:	NPP 1: National Transparency and Accountability NPP 6: National Human Rights and Civic Responsibilities ANPDF: 5.3.A: Reforming the Public Sector
CPD Outcome:	Outcome 1: Improved legitimate, transparent and inclusive governance at all levels that enables progressive realization of human rights
UNDP Strategic Plan Outcome:	Outcome 2: Accelerate structural transformations for sustainable development. Output 2.2.2: Constitution-making, electoral and parliamentary processes and institutions strengthened to promote inclusion, transparency and accountability.
Total Budget 2017-2019:	\$ 141,262,344
Annual Budget 2019:	\$ 43,404,163
Unfunded Amount:	\$ 0
Implementing Partner:	UNDP
Responsible Parties:	IEC, ECC
Project Manager a.i.:	Ali Al-Bayati
Responsible Head of Programme Unit:	Douglas Armour

COVER PAGE PHOTO: VL display and VR process in Parwan province

ACRONYMS

ACCRA	Afghan Central Civil Registration Authority
ANDSF	Afghanistan National Defense and Security Forces
BVV	Biometric Voter Verification
CC	Call Centre
CEO	Chief Electoral Officer
CN	Candidate Nomination
CSO	Civil Society Organization
DC	District Council
DDEO	Deputy District Electoral Officers
DEO	District Electoral Officers
ECC	Electoral Complaints Commission
EDR	Electoral Dispute Resolution
EMB	Election Management Body
FAQs	Frequently Asked Questions
GolRA	Government of Islamic Republic of Afghanistan
HQ	Headquarters
IDLG	Independent Directorate of Local Governance
IEC	Independent Election Commission
M&E	Monitoring & Evaluation
MoF	Ministry of Finance
MoIA	Ministry of Interior Affairs
MoU	Memorandum of Understanding
MoWA	Ministry of Women's Affairs
NATO RS	North Atlantic Treaty Organization Resolute Support Mission
NMP	National Movement Plan
NUG	National Unity Government
PC	Polling Centre
PECC	Provincial Electoral Complaints Commission
PEO	Provincial Election Officer
PIEC	Provincial Independent Election Commission
PMP	Provincial Movement Plan
ProDoc	Project Document
PS	Polling Station
PSA	Public Service Announcement
ToR	Terms of Reference
ToT	Training of Trainers
UNAMA	United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNESP	United Nations Electoral Support Project
UNEST	United Nations Electoral Support Team
VR	Voter Registration
WJ	Wolesi Jirga

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I. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This second quarterly progress report for the United Nations Electoral Support Project (UNESP) covers the period 1 April to 30 June 2019. The report is structured around the outputs outlined in the revised UNESP Project Document (ProDoc) as of July 2018 and the corresponding Annual Work Plan (AWP) for 2019. The project has two overall objectives:

- To build the capacity of the Afghan electoral institutions to implement elections in line with the national electoral legal framework and Afghanistan's international commitments; and,
- To allow a programming mechanism for the international community to partially finance the elections.

During the period under review, the project was funded by Australia, Denmark, Sweden, the European Union (EU), Germany, Japan, Norway, the United Kingdom (UK), and the United States of America (USA). Consequently, UNESP provided financial, operational, advisory and technical support to the two Electoral Management Bodies (EMBs), the Independent Election Commission (IEC) and the Electoral Complaints Commission (ECC) of Afghanistan to achieve the following:

Announcement of Wolesi Jirga 2018 election results: The IEC published the final Wolesi Jirga election results for Baghlan, Helmand, Kabul, Kandahar, Kunduz, Logar, Maidan Wardak, Nangarhar, Paktya and Takhar provinces as well as the Kuchi constituency. On 24 April 2019, the IEC awarded certificates to 89 successful candidates (24 women) drawn from the 10 provinces¹ and the Sikh constituency. In addition, on 15 June 2019, the IEC awarded certificates to 70 successful candidates (19 women) drawn from the six remaining provinces² and the Kuchi constituency. Overall, the IEC has awarded certificates to the 239 winning parliamentarians (66 women).

Voter registration top-up and voter registration in Ghazni: The project provided technical inputs into the development of regulations, procedures and operational plans for the voter registration processes, as detailed under [IEC Regulations, Guidelines, Procedures, Codes of Conduct, and Plans](#). The voter registration top-up process started on 8 June and ended on 29 June 2019 with 318,534 citizens (116,446 women; 35.7%) registered across the 33 provinces. Voter registration for Ghazni province was extended to 6 July³; by end of the quarter, 83,253 citizens (26,898 women) had been registered. The IEC continues to review the data and a final number

¹ Certificates: Nangarhar, Badghis, Paktika, Ghor, Logar, Takhar, Helmand, Herat, Balkh and Kandahar provinces.

² Certificates: Kabul, Kunduz, Baghlan, Maidan Wardak and Paktia provinces.

³ Registration figures by 6 July 2019: 200, 227 potential voters [69,158 women and 130, 265 men).

of the registered new voters will be known in the next quarter. An estimated 1,209,773 citizens (288,708 women) participated in the 34,451 public outreach campaigns at the grassroots level.

Prolonged processing of Wolesi Jirga results: Most of the electoral complaints were related to the Kabul Wolesi Jirga results. This resulted in an initial decision to conduct recounting of the results and then on 25 April, the ECC issued a decision invalidating all assessments, audits and recounts previously conducted by IEC and ECC. Consequently, only those result sheets which were deemed to meet required standards were validated and the final results for Kabul announced in mid-May.

Changes to election dates: On 20 March 2019, the IEC announced 28 September for the Presidential, Provincial Council and Ghazni Wolesi Jirga elections. The project worked with counterparts at both institutions to update operational plans, training timelines and voter registration plans to support the new proposed date. Then, in late May, the IEC reversed the decision and announced that only Presidential elections will proceed on 28 September 2019. This resulted in further reviews of the operational plans and regulatory frameworks.

Consultations on use of biometrics: Since appointment, the new Commission prioritised the use of biometrics in all phases of the process. This led to a number of consultations including technical inputs from the project on the timelines for successful implementation of biometrics in elections. In April, the Commission decided to undertake full biometric voter registration (BVR) and re-registration. After further discussions, in mid-May, the IEC then announced the decision to for biometric voter verification (BVV) on election day and manual registration during the voter registration top-up and voter registration in Ghazni. Consequently, the project provided technical support to the departments to revise regulatory frameworks and operational plans.

Looking Ahead: In the next quarter, the project will continue to support the updating and finalization of regulatory documents on audit, polling, tallying and vote counting. The project will also provide technical inputs to the adjudication of complaints related to the VR top-up and Ghazni VR. The project will continue to provide logistical support for retrieval of VR top-up and VR materials to the provincial capitals and finally to the IEC headquarters for processing. The project will provide technical support to the data capturing of the registered voters from the VR process, including the corrections made during public display of the voters list. The project will also provide technical support to the IEC on campaign finance; and technical support to the Media Committee to ensure fair and impartial coverage of the electoral campaign. In addition, the project will also provide advisory support to the polling centre security assessments, recruitment and training of temporary counting, polling, results processing and data centre operators. The project shall provide technical and operational advice to the

implementation of public outreach plans for the upcoming elections, accreditation of observers and candidate agents as well as coherent engagement with electoral stakeholders. The project will continue to provide operational support for the procurement of remaining electoral materials for the election day and subsequent logistical support for the delivery of electoral materials to the polling centres/polling stations. Lastly, the project will continue to provide technical inputs for the use of biometric devices and direct support to the Commissioners on election management. The project will finalize the substantive revision to incorporate Output 6, in accordance with the operational plans.

EXPENSES FOR THE QUARTER

During Q2, a total of US\$5,653,760 was spent on UNESP activities. For more details, please see [Annex 2](#).

II. RESULTS

A. OUTPUT 1: Administration of credible elections is facilitated by the meeting of key IEC structural and planning milestones.

The project continued to provide advisory and operational support to the IEC targeting communications systems, strategic and operational planning, IEC structures, procedures and systems, including the electoral environment in which the commission operates.

IEC Recruitment

In the period under review, the IEC conducted the following recruitments:

Permanent staff: The Civil Service Commission completed interview processes for three Head of Directorate positions [Human Resources, Information Technology, and Public Relations] as well as 42 Grade 3 and 4 positions. The Head of the Information Technology Directorate has not assumed office yet.

Temporary Staff: Contracts for 346 temporary election staff comprising 266 election technical staff and 80 election support staff were extended until end of 2019 (1398).

Civic Educators and Trainers: The IEC Training Department recruited 10 HQ Trainers and two Assistants (3 women), 164 Provincial Trainers (53 women), 97 Public Outreach Trainers (24 women) and 900 Civic Educators (209 women) for grassroots awareness campaigns.

IEC Call Centre: Contracts were extended for 36 Operators and Supervisors (9 women).

Non-Voting Commissioners: Two Non-Voting International Commissioners (1 woman) are on board since mid-May in accordance with the amended Electoral Law requirements.

Overall, there was an increase in the number of Tashkeel positions from 457 to 465. The percentage of recruited women changed from 5.4 to 5.6 percent. The number of women in senior positions increased from 3.4 to 5.8 percent. As of 30 June 2019, 105 positions remained vacant. The table below provides a more detailed description of the staffing at the IEC.

#	Category	Quarter 1, 2019			Quarter 2, 2019		
		No.	%		No.	%	
1	Filled Tashkeel positions		352	77		360	77.4
2	Vacant Tashkeel positions		105	23		105	22.6
3	Tashkeel positions in approved organogram		457			465	
4	Gender breakdown of recruited Tashkeel positions	Male	Female	% Female	Male	Female	% Female
		333	19	5.4	340	20	5.6
5	Seniority breakdown of recruited Tashkeel positions	Senior	Other	% Senior	Senior	Other	% Senior
		58	294	16.5	69	291	19.2
6	Gender breakdown of Senior positions [Grades 1-3]	Male	Female	% Female	Male	Female	% Female
		56	2	3.4	65	4	5.8
7	Gender breakdown of other positions [Grades 4+]	Male	Female	% Female	Male	Female	% Female
		277	17	5.8	275	16	5.5

Table 1: IEC HR Breakdown Quarter 2, 2019 compared to that of Quarter 1, 2019

Gender inclusive recruitment and human resources policies: The Gender Unit, with support from the project met with the IEC HR Acting Director and Legal Department concerning the leave policy of temporary staff [no leave entitlement, including maternity leave]. Following the UNESPs support to the GU to resolve issues and mitigate against losing female staff, in early May, three Gender Officers (all women) were co-opted in the selection process of shortlisting candidates for advertised permanent posts in the IEC.

IEC Capacity Building and Training

Election programme in Indonesia: At the invitation of the Special Envoy of the Vice President of Indonesia and with funding from the Indonesian government, two IEC staff (one woman) attended the four-day programme from 15 to 18 April 2019. The participants observed that there were 300 voters per polling centre compared to 600 voters per polling centre at the Wolesi Jirga elections; consequently, in Indonesia, voting was completed in a shorter period.

VR and VR top-up training: The IEC Training Department, with technical support from the project revised the VR Procedure and conducted Training of Trainers (ToT) for 164

Provincial Trainers and Training Officers (53 women) to support VR top-up. The Training Department also conducted Training of Trainers for 38 Provincial Trainers and Training Officers trainers for the Ghazni voter registration. The 202 trainers (54 women) have used the knowledge gained in rolling out trainings to 3,186 VR staff (1,108 women). Consequently, the trained VR staff used the skills and knowledge in registration of 318,534 potential voters (116,466 women) across 33 provinces and 83,253 potential voters (26,898 women) in Ghazni.

Description of temporary VR staff trained	Women	Men	Total
DEOs for VR top-up	28	389	417
Technical staff	1,061	1,348	2,409
Queue controllers	19	341	360
Total number trained	1,108	2,078	3,186

Table 2: Summary of training data for VR staff [obtained from 31 provinces except Farah, Kabul and Ghazni]

Public Outreach training: The IEC Information and Public Outreach Department (IPOD), with technical support from the project conducted a three-day ToT for 97 Public Outreach Trainers (24 women) who then cascaded the training to 900 Civic Educators (209 women). Since launching the grassroots campaign on 1 June 2019, the civic educators have sensitized 1,206,079 citizens (287,135 women), women constituted 23.8 percent of the participants.

Polling Training of Trainers: The IEC Training Department completed a five-day ToT for the 10 HQ trainers and 2 Assistants (3 women) on training needs assessment, curriculum development according to training needs and specific audience, training methodologies, training requisites to conduct a training, delivery of training and facilitation skills. The trainers will use the knowledge and skills in material development for the upcoming Presidential election trainings and conducting the ToTs for polling staff.

IEC Public Financial Management: During the reporting period, UNESP supported the IEC to reach the standards of the GoIRA in financial and administrative processes. All administrative sections of the IEC Secretariat are bound by laws, policies and procedures in their conduct of daily actions. To support this, UNESP reactivated data bases and control mechanisms implemented during ELECT II project, including [1] HR database, [2] Asset Tracking System (ATS), and [3] re-emphasised the use of the GoIRA FMIS. Importantly, in line with developing the capacity of the IEC, UNESP have worked with the IEC management and the Deputy CEO to build internal ownership and mandated use of these systems and obtain increased levels of internal adherence to the required standards.

IEC Regulations, Guidelines, Procedures, Codes of Conduct, and Plans

In the period under review, the IEC Legal department, with technical inputs from the project developed the following regulatory documents which are at different stages:

- **Approved Regulations:** The Commission regulations on [1] Voter Registration [VR] top-up, [2] Amended Regulation on VR top-up, with biometric voter registration [BVR] on 30 April 2019, [3] Amended Regulation on VR top-up, Ghazni VR and Voters List on 16 May 2019⁴, [4] Candidate Nomination for Provincial Council elections, [5] Recruitment of Temporary Staff, [6] Regulation on Media Committee, [7] Regulation on Organizing Media Activities, [8] Political Campaign, [9] Amended Accreditation Regulation on Issuance of Accreditation Letter to Political Parties, Candidates, Monitoring and Observer Organizations and Media, and [10] Political Campaign Finance.
- **Regulations pending approval:** [1] Polling (with Biometric) for the 2019 Presidential election, [2] Tallying, announcement and publication of the results of the upcoming election, [3] Audit, recount and invalidation of votes of upcoming election, [4] Non-counting of votes in the counting centres, [5] Vote counting for upcoming election, [6] Voting, counting, tabulation and audit, and [7] Participation of representatives of political parties, media, monitors, national and international observers in IEC Open Sessions.
- **Approved Procedures:** [1] Procedures for Observers, Monitors and Media, [2] Amended Procedure for Voter Registration Top-Up, [3] Amended Procedure for Voter Registration for Ghazni, [4] Voter Registration Intake, [5] Recruitment of Temporary Staff, [6] Candidate Nomination for Provincial Council elections, and [7] Candidate Nomination for Ghazni WJ election and [8] VR Intake Procedures.
- **Approved Guidelines:** [1] Guideline for Transfer and Correction Form.
- **Pending Codes of Conduct:** [1] Code of Conduct for Electoral Workers⁵.
- **Approved Plans:** [1] Amended Operational Plan for the Presidential election, [2] Amended Operational Plan for VR Top Up, and [3] Amended Operational Plan for VR in Ghazni.
- **Approved affidavits⁶:** [1] Media Affidavit, [2] Observer Affidavit, and [3] Political Parties Affidavit.

Lastly, the Board of Commissioners approved the artworks for Polling Centre kits and material, Polling Station kits and material as well as ballot papers design and features.

⁴ Amended Regulation on Top-up VR, Ghazni VR & VL approved on 16 May 2019 is valid and supersedes Regulation on Top-up VR and Preparation of VL, approved on Jan. 02, 2019 and Amended Regulation VR Top-up with BVR was approved on 30 April 2019.

⁵ The previous Code of Conduct will remain in force unless the new Code of Conduct is approved by the Commission.

⁶ On 21 April 2019, the Legal Department submitted draft Codes of Conduct for Media, Political Parties and Observers. The Commission approved them as Affidavits on April 30, 2019, as per Article 105 of Election Law.

In July, the ballot papers and results sheet will be printed in Dubai, in line with the electoral calendar and fraud mitigation measures.

Security coordination mechanism

Security assessments of voter registration centres: In April 2019, from the security assessments conducted by the Ministry of Interior Affairs (MoIA), 206 out of 406 voter registration centres (VRCs) were cleared for VR processes in Ghazni. Following a second assessment, 247 of the 406 VRCs (61%) for Ghazni were cleared, the security environment prevents VRCs in Ajristan, Giro, Nawa, and Rashidan districts to open. The security assessments cleared 427 of the 458 VRCs (93%) for VR top-up. By end of the quarter, 459 VRCs had been cleared for VR top-up and 252 VRCs were cleared for VR in Ghazni. A total 428 opened for VR top-up and another 209 were open for VR in Ghazni.

Description	Provinces	Total VRCs	Open	Closed	% Open VRCs
VR top-up	33	459	428	31	93.2
VR	1	252	43	209	82.9

Table 3: Status of voter registration centres during the VR top-up and VR in Ghazni, June 2019

Security Concept of Operations: The IEC and the project, through collaborative efforts with the security coordination partners [MoIA, NATO Resolute Support and Ministry of Defense] finalized the draft Security Concept of Operations, this was approved by the Commission.

Electoral Security

Wolesi Jirga election results: The announcement of parliamentary election results prompted low-scale protests and demonstrations by disgruntled candidates, candidates' agents and supporters against the Electoral Complaints Commission (ECC) and Independent Election Commission (IEC) [headquarter and provincial level]. The protests, which at times led to the temporary closure of the PIEC and PECC offices were noted in Paktika, Takhar, Baghlan and Kabul. The Takhar Provincial IEC (PIEC) and Provincial ECC (PECC) offices which had been closed since 15 February 2019 reopened on 09 April 2019.

Voter registration and voter registration top-up: Security challenges affected the opening of some voter registration centres (VRCs). In Ghazni, an IED detonated prematurely killing one anti-government element (AGE) and wounding another. In another incident, two Afghan National Defense and Security Forces (ANDSF) personnel were wounded following the explosion of an unidentified explosive device at a VRC, subsequently this centre has been closed indefinitely. In yet another incident, ANDSF personnel defused a land mine at a mosque which is also hosting a VRC. It is also

reported that on 29 June 2019, at least 11 Afghan National Defence and Security Forces (ANDSF) personnel were killed and 27 ANDSF personnel were wounded when Anti-Government Elements (AGE) launched coordinated attacks on the DAC in Maruf district, Kandahar province. The Provincial Electoral Office in Kandahar province confirmed that three IEC staff were killed while one staff was kidnapped during the attack.

EXPENSES FOR THE SECOND QUARTER

During the quarter, a total of US\$ 2,577,707 was spent for this output, please see [Annex 2](#).

Below is a snapshot of where UNESP is in relation to its 2019 quarter two targets.

Output 1 performance indicator table

ProDoc Indicators	Baseline	Annual Targets	Q2 Planned	Q2 Actual	Status/ Comments
1.1: A comprehensive Strategic Plan is designed and adopted by the IEC, including an M&E plan.	No	Yes	NO	Not planned	Not applicable for this Quarter.
1.2: Number of reviews/assessments of the comprehensive monitoring and evaluation plan in line with the IEC's Strategic Plan.	0	1	0	Not planned	Not applicable for this Quarter.
1.3.1: Percentage (%) of recruited Tashkeel staff in relation to the approved IEC organigram (disaggregated M/F).	T: 77% M: 94% F: 6%	T: 100% M: 80% F: 20%	T: 90% M: 85% F: 15%	T: 77.4% M: 94.4% F: 5.6%	On Track.
1.3.2: Percentage of IEC Tashkeel staff who have received induction and technical training and are therefore able to effectively fulfil their functions (disaggregated F/M).	M: 42% F: 18%	M: 80% F: 80%	40%	4% M: 3% F: 1%	Off Track. Due to ongoing recruitment processes for the permanent staff, IEC put on hold capacity building programmes. They intend to include newly recruited staff in the trainings.
1.4: Availability of an Institutional Cooperation Framework.	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Completed in 2018.

ProDoc Indicators	Baseline	Annual Targets	Q2 Planned	Q2 Actual	Status/ Comments
1.5: Extent to which the IEC is compliant with the Afghan public financial management system. (Scale: Not Compliant, Somewhat Compliant, Fully Compliant)	Somewhat compliant	Fully compliant	Somewhat compliant	Somewhat compliant	On Track.
1.6: Comprehensive asset management, logistics and transport procedures are updated, approved and implemented by the IEC.	No	Yes	Partial	Yes	On Track.
1.7: Number (or %) of IEC operational plans and procedures that incorporate specific needs of women (Target: 100%)	100%	100%	100%	100%	On Track.
1.8: Availability of a comprehensive and credible list of polling locations for elections approved and published by the IEC.	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	On Track.
1.9: Availability of finalized boundaries for the Wolesi Jirga, district council and provincial council constituencies published by the IDLG and IEC.	Dropped in May 2018.	Not planned	Not planned	Not planned	Not planned.
1.10: Availability of revised and approved regulations, procedures and plans for (1) voter registration, (2) candidate nomination, (3) polling procedures and (4) results management are adopted and implemented by the IEC. (Score: 1-4)	4	4	3	3	On Track.
1.11: Availability of approved budgeted operational plan for the next elections incorporating (1) voter registration, (2) candidate nomination, (3) polling operations, (4) counting operations, results	5	5	5	5	On Track.

ProDoc Indicators	Baseline	Annual Targets	Q2 Planned	Q2 Actual	Status/ Comments
management & announcement, (5) comprehensive electoral budget (Score: 1-5)					
1.12: A functional elections security coordination mechanism in place (including IEC, ANDSF and RS Mission and other stakeholders) including availability of Security assessment of polling centre locations.	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	On Track.

B. OUTPUT 2: Credible electoral dispute resolution (EDR) is provided by the ECC.

UNESP provides support to the ECC to fulfil its essential role in electoral dispute resolution in accordance with the Afghan electoral legal framework. UNESP works with the ECC to strengthen its capacity to resolve electoral disputes and to define and enforce the legal and regulatory requirements for participation in and contestation of the elections.

ECC Recruitment

In the proposed organogram, the ECC expanded the staffing structure of *Tashkeel* positions at the central and provincial level to enable the commission to be better able to adjudicate on election related complaints. At the central level, the ECC proposed increasing staffing of technical departments [Registration and Filing, Analysis and Investigation] from 10 to 35 permanent staff. At the provincial level, ECC proposed increasing *Tashkeel* staffing in three categories⁷ to 15 staff for grade one provinces; 11 staff for grade two provinces; 9 staff for grade three provinces and 19 staff for Kabul province. The Commissioners approved the *Tashkeel* structure comprising 610 permanent staff at central and provincial level and submitted to the Civil Service Commission for review and approval.

In the period under review, the ECC prioritised the recruitment of staff as follows:

Permanent staff: Following amendment of the Electoral Law, the ECC updated the Recruitment Procedure and subsequently halted recruitment of permanent staff. Consequently, 40 vacant permanent positions in the ECC and Provincial ECC (PECC) remain vacant as the revised Recruitment Procedure is yet to be approved by the Board of Commissioners.

Temporary staff: Recruitment of temporary staff has been ongoing; the ECC recruited 150 temporary staff for central and provincial levels comprising 100 unarmed guards, cleaners and support staffs to the departments. In addition, the President approved ECC's proposal for recruitment of 10 temporary National Advisors comprising five legal and five technical staff for the ECC Central Office. The recruitment of 78 PECC Commissioners [10 reserve] is ongoing and expected to be completed in the next quarter.

International Non-Voting Members: Following the Presidential decree confirming appointment of two international non-voting members to the ECC, two

⁷ Categories are based on geographical size, population numbers and development factors, with grade one provinces being highly developed, i.e. Kabul, through to grade three provinces being least developed.

Commissioners (1 woman) for the IEC are on board since mid-May 2019. They are providing technical support to the Commissioners.

Gender inclusive recruitment and human resources policies: The project provided technical inputs to the ECC Deputy Chief Electoral Officer (CEO) and Finance and Administration on gender inclusive HR and recruitment. The project recommended extensive dissemination of vacancy announcements to wider stakeholders including the Ministry of Women Affairs (MOWA), extending vacancy deadlines where there are few applications from qualified female applicants and intentional inclusion of the equal opportunity statement to encourage women to apply on all advertisements. Other strategies to retain female staff include mentoring of staff on a career track for promotion and inclusion of staff from the Gender Unit on recruitment panels.

Quarterly Progress: There are no changes in *Tashkeel* positions since the ECC decision to halt recruitment until approval of the proposed *Tashkeel* structure and revised Recruitment Procedure .

#	Category	Quarter 1, 2019			Quarter 2, 2019		
		No.	%		No.	%	
1	Filled Tashkeel positions		379	92.8		379	92.8
2	Vacant Tashkeel positions		31	7.6		31	7.6
3	Tashkeel positions in approved organogram		410			410	
4	Gender breakdown of recruited Tashkeel positions	Male	Female	% Female	Male	Female	% Female
		346	33	8.7	346	33	8.7
5	Seniority breakdown of recruited Tashkeel positions	Senior	Other	% Senior	Senior	Other	% Senior
		73	293	19.9	73	293	19.9
6	Gender breakdown of Senior positions [Grades 1-3]	Male	Female	% Female	Male	Female	% Female
		68	5	6.8	68	5	6.8
7	Gender breakdown of other positions [Grades 4+]	Male	Female	% Female	Male	Female	% Female
		261	32	10.9	261	32	10.9

Table 4: ECC HR Breakdown Quarter 2, 2019 compared to that of Quarter 1, 2019

ECC Capacity Building and Training

Advisory support to ECC Media Monitors: The project trained 18 staff (2 women) from the ECC Information and Public Outreach Department and External Relations Department on social media. The session covered the social media landscape of Afghanistan, social media tools and practical ways to enhance social media activities of ECC. The participants also received practical guidance on using popular social media tools for ECC and are already using the acquired skills in advancing the use of social media. Consequently, there is a spike in followers and engagement on Facebook and Twitter.

Implementation of ECC Training Plan: Following completion of the Training Needs Assessments, the ECC, with technical inputs from the project developed the ECC

Training Plan. In the period under review, the project supported the ECC in the implementation of trainings related to operations management and the human resources management information system. A total 17 staff (3 women) participated in these trainings and are already applying the skills in their day to day work.

Lessons learned workshops: The ECC, with technical and operational support from the project conducted two rounds of lessons learned workshops in April 2019; 136 PECC Commissioners and ECC staff (31 women) participated. The participants discussed experiences, achievements and challenges related to the Wolesi Jirga election. On adjudication of complaints, experiences suggest the need to strengthen categorization of complaints, subsequent analysis at the provincial level and timely transmission of decisions to the headquarters. The reflections also identified gaps in stakeholder coordination, this gap will be addressed through implementation of activities outlined in the Stakeholder Engagement Plan. Another area for strengthening was related to public awareness raising, this is being addressed through the public outreach campaigns and increased use of social media to raise awareness of citizens on the mandate of the ECC.

ECC Regulations, Guidelines, Procedures, Codes of Conduct, and Plans

Regulatory documents developed with support from the project are at various stages:

- **Approved:** [1] Regulation on the Duties and Authorities of the Provincial ECC (PECC) on 10 June 2019; [2] Regulation on the Duties and Authorities of the ECC on 10 June 2019; [3] Procedure on adjudication of complaints related to voter registration on 15 June 2019; [4] Code of conduct for ECC commissioners on 15 June 2019; [5] Guideline on recruitment of PECC Commissioners on 25 June 2019; [6] Amended Operational Plan for 2019 Presidential election.
- **Pending approval:** [1] ECC Communication Policy, [2] Communications and Public Outreach Strategy for ECC IPOD, and [3] Memorandums of Understanding for signing with different institutions [strengthening synergies and coordination].

Electoral Complaints

Electoral complaints for preliminary results: The ECC and Provincial ECC offices, with technical support from the project, completed adjudication of the 4,946 complaints and 781 appeals for the remaining provinces⁸. On 21 April 2019, the ECC convened an open session to discuss the Wolesi Jirga election and results for Kabul; over 55 political party representatives attended. Consequently, on 25 April 2019, the ECC issued a decision invalidating all assessments, audits and recounts conducted by IEC and ECC for Kabul province. The ECC proceeded to validate result sheets from polling centres and stations deemed to meet required standards of electoral procedures and terms.

⁸ Takhar, Paktia, Nangarhar, Kunduz, Helmand, Kandahar, Baghlan, Maidan Wardak, Kabul as well as the Kuchi constituency

The result sheets were also audited and checked for tampering with the results. If tampering for a specific candidate was evident, the vote count was annulled.

Electoral complaints for voter registration: The ECC and Provincial ECC offices received 18 complaints from Kabul [13], Parwan [1] and Samangan [1] during the VR top-up and from Ghazni [3] during the VR process.

Electoral complaints for early campaigning: The PECC registered two complaints of early presidential elections campaign.

EXPENSES FOR THE SECOND QUARTER

During Q2, a total of US\$ 540,814 was spent for this output, please see [Annex 2](#).

Below is a snapshot of where UNESP is in relation to its 2019 quarter two targets.

Output 2 performance indicator table

ProDoc Indicators	Baseline	Annual Targets	Q2 Planned	Q2 Actual	Comments
2.1: A comprehensive Strategic Plan is designed and adopted by the ECC, including organigram and TORs.	No	Yes	Not planned	Not planned	Not applicable for this Quarter.
2.2: Availability of an Institutional Cooperation Framework for the ECC.	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	On Track.
2.3.1: Percentage of recruited Tashkeel staff in relation to the approved ECC organigram (M/F).	T: 89% F: 19% M: 81%	T: 100% F: 20% M: 80%	T: 100%	T: 92.8% F: 8.7% M: 91.3%	On Track.
2.3.2: Percentage of ECC Tashkeel staff who have received induction and technical training and are therefore able to effectively fulfil their functions (disaggregated F/M).	F: 50% M: 50%	F: 80% M: 80%	T: 40%	T: 9% F: 1% M: 8%	On-track. Recruitment of BRIDGE trainers ongoing.
2.4: Percentage of women employed at ECC.	Dropped in May 2018	Not planned	Not planned	Not planned	Not planned.
2.5: Number of new regulations on the conduct of the complaints process adopted and published on time.	14	10	5	5	On Track.
2.6: Number (or %) of ECC operational plans and procedures that integrate/programme specific needs of women.	30%	100%	70%	100%	On Track.
2.7: EDR Case Management System in place.	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Completed in 2018.
2.8: Availability of budgeted operational plan for the adjudication of electoral complaints for the upcoming elections, approved by the ECC.	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Completed.

ProDoc Indicators	Baseline	Annual Targets	Q2 Planned	Q2 Actual	Comments
2.9: Percentage of electoral complaints, which are timely adjudicated by the ECC as per the national electoral legal framework.	85%	100%	100%	100%	On Track.

C. OUTPUT 3: Afghan public and political stakeholders are informed of the electoral process and committed to participating in the next electoral cycle in accordance with the law.

The project continued to provide technical and operational guidance to the ECC and IEC Information and Public Outreach Departments (IPOD) on strategic communication and public outreach. The project provided guidance on stakeholder engagement including increasing the footprint of social media in communicating on electoral processes. This support includes planning and implementing electoral awareness campaigns, as well as proactive electoral stakeholder engagement, specifically with political stakeholders, media, civil society and observer groups.

IEC Strategic Communications and Outreach

The IEC conducted press conferences to inform the media and citizens on electoral processes related to the elections and voter registration and top-up voter registration as below:

- **18 May 2019:** media informed that voter registration top-up will commence on 8 June 2019 days across 458 voter registration centres.
- **29 May 2019:** decision to hold only Presidential elections on 28 September 2019 announced.
- **8 June 2019:** inauguration of voter registration conferences at headquarter level and across all 34 provinces.

IPOD Operational Plan and concept for public outreach campaign: Following approval of the IEC Operational Plan, IPOD with technical inputs from the project updated the operational plan and developed the concept for the public outreach campaign as well as the field outreach plan for the voter registration campaign. The IPOD, with support from the project has now developed a concept and action plan for the upcoming information campaign for the VR campaign period.

Awareness raising campaigns: Experiences from the 2018 outreach campaign highlighted the need to strengthen grassroots outreach for electoral processes. Consequently, on 1 June 2019, the Information and Public Outreach Department (IPOD), with technical support from the project developed and rolled out voter education at the grassroots level through 900 civic educators (209 women). The 34,451 meetings, targeting youths, activists, minorities, women, citizens with special needs and residents of remote areas have reached 1,209,773 citizens [288,708 women and 921,065 men]. Then, the IEC with support from the project aired public service announcements [PSAs] on 12 television [TV] and 80 radio stations in the relevant languages until end of the VR top-up period. The PSAs covered topics on VR top-up and public display of the voters list [in Dari, Pashto and Uzbek], as well as VR in Ghazni

[in Dari and Pashto]. Further, the IEC with technical and operational support from the project produced motivational radio and TV PSAs [targeting women and youth turning 18 by election day] and another VR final countdown PSA to encourage those who have not previously participated in the voter registration to register. These PSAs were aired in Dari, Pashto and Uzbek languages across the 8 television and 55 radio stations. Finally, following the decision to extend VR in Ghazni into July, the IEC with support from the project developed a new PSA for TV and Radio for broadcasting from the evening of 1 July 2019.

Number of participants			Distribution of IPOD materials			
Women	Men	Total	Posters	Brochures	Leaflets	Other materials
288,708	921,065	1,209,773	27,628	204,212	75,971	32,030

Table 5: Summary of participation at the grassroots meetings, June 2019

Bulletins and website: The IEC developed, published and disseminated Bulletins 10 and 11 with project support. The electronic versions are also uploaded on the IEC website in Dari and English. Bulletins 10 and 11 contained updates on stakeholder engagement and announcement of final results. In addition, Bulletin 11 contained updated on the ballot lottery for Presidential election and certificate issuance to the 89 newly elected Members of Parliament. In addition, the IEC also published Wolesi Jirga results for nine provinces [Takhar, Nangarhar, Logar, Helmand, Kandahar, Kunduz, Baghlan, Maidan Wardak, Paktia] and the Kuchi constituency.

Following the in-house training on social media and routine technical support, and regular technical support from the project, the IPOD has increased their footprint on social media [Facebook, Twitter]. There are now 8,643 followers (12% women) on Twitter and in the month of June 2019 at least 46,300 tweet impressions and 2,201 profile visits were recorded. At least 64 percent of the audience accessed the page from Afghanistan. There is a steady growth of followers on Facebook with a total 7,722 followers, and from late May to June 2019, post engagement was 43,174 compared to 21,900 in April 2019; post reach was 97,944 compared to 82,024 in April 2019. It is also interesting to note that the majority of the followers are between 18 and 34 years, most of the followers are also viewing the page from Afghanistan. These statistics demonstrate a steady increase in the engagement of fans and followers on the IEC Facebook page.

Billboards and print materials: The IPOD, with technical inputs from the project finalized three billboards designs in Dari and Pashto for VR top-up, display of the voters list (VL) and VR in Ghazni. The 411 billboards with motivational messages and instructions on registering as a voter and verification of the voters list were installed across the 34 provinces. In addition, the IPOD, with technical support from the project finalized messages and artworks for the leaflets, posters and brochures to aid public

outreach efforts. Consequently, the printed materials [54,421 leaflets; 26,802 posters; and 200,603 brochures] have been disseminated during the grassroots meetings. Following the decision by IEC to extend VR process in Ghazni province, IPOD with technical support from the project updated the messaging and closing dates on 18 billboards.

Call Centre: The Call Centre, which has not been operational since 20 March 2019 resumed operations on 8 June 2019 and received 22,258 calls from 2,951 women and 19,577 men through the toll-free number, 190. Questions received were related to the national identification document [*Tazkira*], the voter registration process, campaign period, date of the Presidential election and electoral security. Below are the statistics for the period under review and a snapshot of issues enquired.

Callers	08 to 10 June	11 to 16 June	17 to 23 June	24 to 30 June	Total
Women	99	705	687	1,460	2,951
Men	614	4,725	4,515	9,723	19,577
Total	713	5,430	5,202	11,183	22,528

Table 6: Statistics of callers to the IEC Call Centre, June 2019

Types of questions directed to the IEC Call Centre

- **Tazkira:** [1] for Tazkira with a sticker, should another sticker be added during VR top up; [2] can a duplicate Tazkira be used for registration; [3] can a Tazkira from X province be used to register in Y province; [4] can a person carry the Tazkira of someone who cannot physically go to the VRC and register on their behalf; [5] removed the sticker for security reasons, can another sticker be added during VR top-up; [6] is the NSIA issuing Tazkira during the VR process, they did in the previous VR process; [7] returnees may have lost Tazkira, can they register without a Tazkira; [8] my name is not readable, but the sticker is ok, can I vote in the upcoming election with this Tazkira; [9] how will military personnel be registered, they surrendered their Tazkira to the government?
- **Effects of relocation:** [1] I registered in X province and relocated to Y province, can I register and vote in the current province; [2] I registered in X province and relocated to Y province, do I need to register again in the current province?
- **Voter registration processes:** [1] location of the VRC nearest to me; [2] duration of the VR process; [3] opening time of the VRC; [4] the VRC is too far, how else can I register; [5] is the VR process in Ghazni Province general, or top up; [6] will the VR top-up process be extended; [7] how long is the extension of VR process in Ghazni; [8] I registered in 2018 but my name does not appear on the voters list, do I need to register again; [9] will those who have not registered during the VR top up get another chance to be registered, or they have been deprived of their right to vote?
- **Campaign period:** [1] What is the start date of the campaign process?

- **Elections:** [1] Are Ghazni WJ elections on same day as Presidential election; [2] can opponents of the government vote in this election; [3] as the whole country is a single constituency in the presidential election, can we vote from wherever we want or only at the polling centre where we have registered; [4] how many votes are necessary to be elected president; [5] is the presidential election on 28 September or is it postponed?
- **District Council elections:** [1] when is the registration of candidates for the District Council election?

Ceremonies for winning Wolesi Jirga candidates: On 24 April and 15 June 2019, the IEC held certification ceremonies for 159 winning WJ candidates (43 women) from 15 provinces⁹ and the two constituencies [Kuchi and Sikh]. At this stage, the IEC has inaugurated all MPs elected in the 2018 Wolesi Jirga election.

IEC Electoral Stakeholder Engagement

IEC stakeholder engagement:

The project worked closely with the IEC to draft a comprehensive Stakeholder Engagement Framework which will be finalized in the coming quarter. In line with the work concluded under this, during the report period, the IEC held six notable stakeholder engagement events which were supported by the project via technical advice. The evolving nature of the 2019 elections are highlighted by the summaries of these meetings below.

On 11 April 2019, the IEC, with support from the project convened a consultative meeting with civil society organizations (CSOs), (FEFA, ETWA and FETWO¹⁰) on the upcoming election. The CSOs highlighted the need for training on biometric devices and transparency in the electoral process.

Then, on 15 April 2019, the IEC convened another consultation meeting with presidential candidates and political parties on the use of technology. The candidates, who were not in agreement with the proposed concept for VR and collection of biometrics recommended outsourcing of the process and highlighted that presidential elections will be unacceptable without technology.

On 25 April 2019, at the Civil Society Election Coordination Group (CECG) meeting, the IEC and participants engaged on electoral issues related to budget, use of technology, recruitment processes, electoral calendar, interaction and coordination with stakeholders, electoral observation, and accreditation of CSOs. The IEC, with technical

⁹ Nangarhar, Badghis, Paktika, Ghor, Logar, Takhar, Helmand, Herat, Balkh, Kandahar, Baghlan, Kabul, Kunduz, Maidan Wardak, Paktia.

¹⁰ FEFA: Free and Fair Election Forum of Afghanistan, ETWA: Election and Transparency Watch Organization of Afghanistan, FETWO: Free Election and Transparency Watch Afghanistan.

and advisory support from the project has increased engagement with the CECG using the coordination framework. The framework identifies opportunities for CSO support in dissemination of outreach messages for upcoming electoral processes, starting with voter registration.

In addition, on 20 May 2019, IEC convened another CECG meeting with eight national CSOs, including FEFA, TEFA, ETWA, ACSFO, ABRAAR, and international community (EU, National Democratic Institute [NDI], European Centre for Electoral Support [ECES], Counterpart International and United States Institute of Peace [USIP]) where the IEC Commissioner confirmed the conducting of Presidential, Provincial Council and delayed Ghazni Wolesi Jirga elections on 28 September 2019, without conducting BVR. It should be noted, that in a later decision in late May 2019, the Commission decided to conduct the Presidential election with BVV on election day for voter verification and results transmission.

On 13 June 2019, the IEC, with advisory support from the project convened the first National Election Forum (NEF) under the new IEC leadership with at least 100 representatives from political parties, civil society, media, government, international community and other political stakeholders in attendance. The NEF, which was broadcasted live on various media outlets was an interactive session with IEC presenting on progress with electoral preparations and challenges ahead. The participants raised concerns about undue interference in the electoral process, credibility of the voter list, absence of biometric technology in voter registration, limited attention to electoral observation and monitoring, and quality of public outreach.

On 19 June 2019, the project facilitated a meeting on biometrics on elections, 22 representatives (3 women) from the CECG and presidential candidates attended. The emphasis was that technology is a tool to support the manual process, but the fundamental principle should be the ability of people to vote. The participants raised issues of trust, timeline to implement technology and interference in the electoral process hinting that if the elections could not be held in a transparent and credible manner, they should be postponed till 2020.

ECC Public Outreach and Communication

IPOD Operational Plan and concept for public outreach campaign: The ECC Information and Public Outreach Department (IPOD) with technical inputs from the project developed its operational and communications and public outreach plan for the VR campaign. The ECC conducted its outreach and communications campaign based on the priorities, approach, messages and tools identified in the plan. The project continued to provide technical and advisory support to IPOD in developing

communications and outreach plan for the period covering the Presidential elections campaign, election day and announcement of preliminary election results.

Press conferences: With technical inputs from the project, the ECC held two press conferences:

- 23 April 2019: certification of the candidates for the Presidential Election and submission of the final list to IEC. No complaints or objections were filed against the candidates.
- 12 June 2019: registration of complaints related to VR top-up, VR Ghazni and display of voters list. Thirteen complaints were officially registered, and 31 complaints were received over the phone, but not officially registered.

Press releases: Similarly, with technical inputs from the project, the ECC issued three press releases:

- 8 April 2019: advising prospective presidential candidates to refrain from any gatherings and activities recognizable as electoral campaigns.
- 23 April 2019: announcing completion of the vetting process for preliminary list of presidential candidates.
- 25 April 2019: announcing decision to invalidate all assessments, audits and recounts conducted by the IEC and the ECC with regards to Kabul results.

Bulletins, factsheets and magazine: : The ECC IPOD, with technical and operational support from the project developed and released Bulletins 8 ,9 and 10 in Dari and English. Bulletins 8 and 9 contained updates on the open sessions, consultation meetings with stakeholders, amendments to the Electoral Law [Bulletin 8 only] and the lessons learned workshops [Bulletin 9 only]. Bulletin 10 provided a status update of complaints registration during the voter registration top-up, voter registration in Ghazni and display of voters list. In addition, provincial factsheets of the Wolesi Jirga elections, developed with technical inputs from the project were finalized and released. The ECC, with technical inputs from the project also developed and released the quarterly magazine summarizing activities and achievements of the Commission, including the appointment of the new non-voting international Commissioners. The second season magazine, developed with technical inputs from the project is submitted to the IPOD Director and Deputy Chief Electoral Officer for review, the magazine will be published in the next quarter.

Billboards and print materials: The ECC, with technical inputs from the project



Figure 1: Billboard installed in Ghazni province, June 2019

developed and finalized the design and key messages for posters on electoral dispute resolution (EDR), complaints registration and adjudication. In addition, the ECC with technical inputs from the project developed a leaflet highlighting electoral violations related to VR to raise awareness and prompt

timely reporting of complaints and objections. Also, the ECC with support from the project developed two billboards to (1) appeal to the public to register complaints during the VR process and display of the voters list, and (2) outline the types of electoral violations that could take place during the VR process. A total 190 billboards, in Dari, Pashto and Uzbek languages were installed across the 34 provinces.

Website, social media and media monitoring: The project continued to provide on the job training to the media monitors on monitoring methodologies and reporting. The

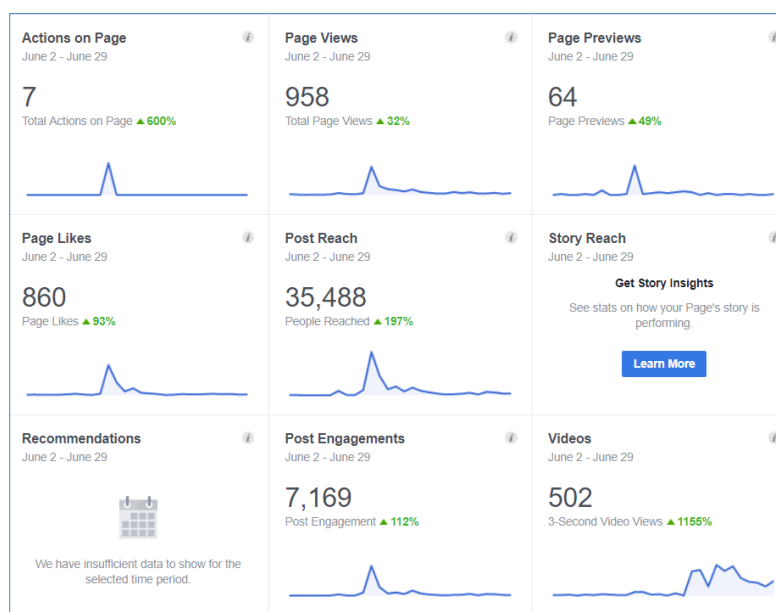


Figure 2: Analysis of ECC Facebook page for 2 to 29 June 2019

[Dari] media monitoring reports, which provide insight on how the media and public perceive the work of the ECC and are used by the Commissioners, Chief Electoral Officer (CEO) and Head of Departments in stakeholder engagement. Following the in-house training on social media and routine technical support, the ECC increased use of their social media platforms, there was a consequent

increase in followers, profile visits, retweets, and user engagement. There are now 279 followers (13% women) on Twitter from 67 and in the month of June 2019 at least 16,900 tweet impressions¹¹ and 160 profile visits were recorded. There is a steady growth of followers on Facebook with a total 17,315 fans from 15,300 (5% women),

¹¹ Twitter impressions are the number of times a tweet shows up in somebody's timeline.

and in June 2019 there were 7,169 post engagements. Finally, the ECC, with support from the project conducted targeted social media campaigns on VR and complaints adjudication from 12 June 2019. The three social media platforms are accessible on:

- <https://www.facebook.com/ECCAfgghanistan/>
- <https://twitter.com/ECCAfgghanistan>
- <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCr5NPEBZP1idaKYI6M60a8w>
[ECCAfgghanistan]

Communication Plan and Public Outreach Strategy: The Communication Plan and the Public Outreach Strategy, revised with technical support from project were presented to the IPOD and External Relations Department, these are yet to be finalized.

Frequently Asked Questions: A one pager summarizing FAQs on VR and VL display, drafted with support from the project awaits approval from the Deputy CEO and the Spokesperson. The FAQs will be used in the next quarter as a poster for college outreach programmes.

Awareness campaign for voter registration: The ECC, with technical inputs from the project developed the plan for VR campaign to raise awareness on electoral violations and registration of complaints during the VR process. Thereafter, the ECC, with technical support from the project produced PSAs aimed at appealing to the public to exercise their electoral rights and register irregularities and violations during the VR process and display of the voters list. On 18 June 2019, the ECC launched a month-long communication and public outreach campaign for VR and VL display related complaints through print, electronic and social media. The PSAs, which are being broadcasted in Dari, Pashto and Uzbek on 20 Radio stations and 12 TV stations across the country are also uploaded on the ECC website and YouTube pages <https://bit.ly/2XxFkVV> [Dari] and <https://bit.ly/2FwebIJ> [Uzbek]. In addition, the audio PSA is also broadcasted by the Ministry of Interior from their radio station. So far, 13 electoral complaints have been registered in Kabul [11], Samangan [1] and Parwan [1], another 31 received on phone were not formally registered.

Types of complaints registered

- **Tazkira:** [1] issuance of Tazkira to underage people; [2] people having more than one Tazkira; [3] people registering with a copy of Tazkira not the original one; [4] IEC officials not putting sticker on electronic Tazkira.
- **Voter Registration Centres:** [1] VR centres not opening on time; [2] the IEC changing VR centres from one location to another without prior notification.

Stakeholder Engagement Plan: The draft plan aimed at strengthening engagement with electoral stakeholders during different phases of the electoral calendar developed in collaboration with the External Relations and Information and Public Outreach

Departments, have been shared with the ECC. The plan is anticipated to guide engagement with stakeholders, and the conducting of consultation as well as coordination meetings during the campaign period which starts on 15 August 2019.

Open Sessions: The ECC facilitated four open sessions [one for Kuchi and three for Kabul results]. At one session with unsuccessful candidates; the majority of unsuccessful candidates asked the ECC Board of Commissioners [BoC] to invalidate the results for the Kabul Wolesi Jirga elections. At another session with preliminary winning candidates, they demanded that the ECC finalize all appeals and sent a certification letter to IEC as soon as possible. Both winners and unsuccessful candidates indicated that protests would follow if the ECC did not give them a favourable decision. Then, at the meeting of 15 April 2019, the majority of the CSO representatives requested ECC not to nullify Kabul election asserting that most electoral frauds happened during the recount. The CSOs pledged to support ECC on their final decision about Kabul, provided Commissioners adhered to the law and regulations in adjudicating complaints and objections. On 21 April 2019, at another open session, over 55 representatives of political parties provided their opinion to ECC on a possible way forward to complete the remaining processes.

Electoral Observation

Electoral observation: In April, the ICT Department presented an initial database for observer accreditation developed with technical inputs from the project. The IEC finalized the database for domestic observer accreditation, with technical inputs from the project and launched the process on 18 June. In late May, using the approved Procedure to guide accreditation of observers, monitors and media, the External Relations Department, with support from the project sensitized the Provincial External Relations Officers on observer accreditation.

Following the launch in June, with advisory support from the project, the IEC conducted a briefing for prospective observers, monitors, media representatives and candidate's agents on the accreditation process, roles and responsibilities of observers, legal aspects, accreditation of entities and individuals, as well as online accreditation application. The IEC Gender Unit with technical inputs from the project also presented on Gender in election observation, monitoring and reporting. At least 80 participants including representatives of international NGOs (ECES, National Democratic Institute [NDI], Counterpart International and USIP) participated in the event. In addition, the IEC, with support from the project finalized the invitation letters for prospective international observers, these have been dispatched through IEC's own channels, the diplomatic missions and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MOFA). The invitations for special guests are drafted and will be dispatched to all embassies in Kabul in the next quarter.

Finally, the IEC External Relations Department, with advisory support from the project, held a consultative meeting with the international NGOs (ECES, NDI, Counterpart International and Afghan Analyst Network) to discuss their programmes to support election observation and monitoring and strengthen cooperation with the IEC. Based on technical advice from the project, the External Relations Department will regularize the meetings in the next quarter and a WhatsApp group will be set up to improve coordination of the activities of the IEC, INGOs and international observers.

EXPENSES FOR THE QUARTER

During Q2, a total of US\$ 212,968 was spent for this output, please see [Annex 2](#).

Below is a snapshot of where UNESP is in relation to its quarter two targets.

Output 3 performance indicator table

ProDoc Indicators	Baseline	Annual Targets	Q2 Planned	Q2 Actual	Comments
3.1.1. Percentage of people/eligible voters reached through IEC's public TV and Radio information campaigns (about the functions of the entities they are voting for, the importance of making an informed choice, and their rights and responsibilities according to the law as voters) (disaggregated F/M, region, vulnerable, etc.	79.7% ¹²	80%	TBC	1,206,079 citizens participated in grassroots meetings.	On track.
3.1.2. Percentage of people who declare themselves (a) informed and (b) satisfied with IEC's and ECC's role in the electoral process (F/M, vulnerable/at-risk etc.).	IEC: 43.3% ¹³	(a) 50% (b) 50%	(a) Not planned (b) Not planned	(a) Not planned (b) Not planned	Not applicable for this Quarter.
3.2. Percentage of people who declare their intention to register for the next election cycle.	67.87% ¹⁴	68%	Not planned	Not planned	Not applicable for this Quarter.
3.4. Number of Afghan civil society organizations delivering common civic and voter education (disaggregated by geography vulnerable groups).	Dropped in May 2018.	Not planned	Not planned	Not planned	Not planned.

¹² According to The Asia Foundation: A Survey of the Afghan People: In 2018, when respondents were asked whether they were aware of the upcoming election, a majority (79.7%) said yes. This is consistent with 2009 (81.9%), when the same question was asked regarding the presidential election. Television (43.9%); radio (25.1%); and friends, family, and neighbours (14.7%) are the main sources of information about the elections.

¹³ According to The Asia Foundation: A Survey of the Afghan People: In 2018, for the second consecutive year, Afghans expressed increased confidence in the Independent Election Commission (43.3%, up from 38.1% in 2017 and a record low of 33.7% in 2016).

¹⁴ According to the Islamic republic of Afghanistan Central Statistics Organization report, Estimated Population of Afghanistan 2018-2019; the total population of the country in 1397 (2018 -19) is estimated to be about 31.6 million persons, with approximately 13,113,300 people 20 years or over. The percentage has been estimated based on the 8,899,941 valid voters registered in 2018.

3.5. Percentage of women (a) registered, (b) nominated (c) voted	a. 34.7% b. 16.2% c. 37.4%	a. 40% b. TBD c. 40%	a. 40% b. TBD c. 0%	a. 35.7% b. 0% c. 0%	On Track.
3.6. Number of political parties, electoral contestants and civil society groups that participate in public consultation/stakeholder engagement events with IEC.	1,641	Not targeted in 2019	Not planned	Not planned	Not planned.

D. OUTPUT 4: A polling centre-specific voter list for the next elections is produced by the IEC.

To produce a polling centre specific voter list, the IEC needs to conduct country wide VR followed by data entry of all individual records of those who register. The National Statistics and Information Authority(NSIA) report provides an estimates population of 31.6 million people with approximately 13,1 million people above the age of 20¹⁵.

Verification of Voter Records: The project continued to provide technical and operational support for the verification of voter records. In the period under review 2,679,355 voter records were verified. Consequently, since resumption of the exercise on 2 February 2019, all 9,532,553 voter records in the IEC database have been verified. A total 428,901 invalid records were removed, resulting in a final list of 9,103,652 voter records which were printed for review and corrections during the VR top-up.

Voter Records	June to October 2018	Quarter 1, 2019	Quarter 2, 2019	Total
Number verified	1,358,782	5,494,416	2,679,355	9,532,553

Table 7: Summary of the verification of voter records

Voter Registration

On 8 June 2019, the IEC launched voter registration top-up across 33 provinces and voter registration in Ghazni province. The VR top-up ended on 29 June 2019, while the VR processes in Ghazni were extended to 6 July 2019. Preliminary reports suggest that 318,534 people (116,446 women) registered during the VR top-up and 83,253 people (26,898 women)¹⁶ have registered in Ghazni. The IEC ICT team, with technical support from the project deployed a VR statistics database for tabulation of new registrations, corrections and transfers.

Description	Voter Registration Centres			Number of people registered				
	Open	Closed	Total	Women	Men	Kuchi	Total	% women
33 provinces	428	31	459	116,446	197,110	4,978	318,534	36.6
Ghazni	209	43	252	26,898	55,951	404	83,253	32.3
Total	637	74	711	143,344	253,061	5,382	401,787	35.7

Table 8: preliminary data from the voter registration processes, June 2019

¹⁵ While the voting age of Afghanistan is 18 years +, the referenced report included 18 years in the age group 15-19 years, therefore the number is only approximate and based on the data available to the CSO at the time of writing.

¹⁶ Registration figures by 6 July 2019: 200, 227 potential voters [69,158 women and 130, 265 men).

Public display of the voters list:

Preliminary data shows that 20,329 corrections were made; 3,603 changes were corrections of names of the voters and 16,726 were related to a change of the polling centre.

The IEC, with technical inputs from the project developed National and Provincial Movement Plans for delivery of



Figure 3: VR display in Parwan province, June 2019

materials and subsequent retrieval of materials. On 8 June, 422 out of 459 planned movements were completed, by close of VR top-up, 433 movements had been completed. Due to security challenges, movement could not be completed in 22 districts. So far 310 movements for retrieval of materials from VRCs to PIECs have been completed.

Public outreach to encourage participation of women

Introductory meeting on effective participation of women in elections: The IEC with technical inputs from the project discussed women's effective participation in elections with 61 participants (44 women) from civil society organizations (CSOs) and national institutions.

Key takeaways from the meeting on effective participation of women

- Importance of women's independent participation in conducting inclusive elections as well as extensive outreach campaigns was emphasized.
- Request for support and cooperation in encouraging women's participation in elections.
- Request to encourage and inform women to join the EMB through applying for advertised posts.
- Representatives from Ministry of Women's Affairs (MOWA), Ministry of Interior (MOI), Afghan Women's Network (AWN), First Lady's Office, Human Rights Commission, ECC and Free and Fair Elections Foundation of Afghanistan (FEFA) who shared their roles and activities in the previous election committed to continue supporting participation of women in the upcoming elections.

Participation of women in election processes: The IEC Gender Unit, with technical support from the project facilitated a coordination meeting on women's participation in VR top-up with CSOs (women and women elites); 62 people (52 women) attended. The Chairpersons of the EMBs highlighted challenges in attracting women in the recruitment processes. Participants were encouraged to be actively involved in organizing outreach campaigns specifically for women, to raise their awareness and encourage them to

participate in electoral processes. Some challenges affecting women include difficulties to reach VRCs [need a Mahram to accompany them to VRCs that are far away] and not having Tazkira which is a requirement for voter registration. Similar coordination meetings were replicated in other provinces [except Nuristan and Zabul].

Ease of electoral complaints processes: The project provided technical inputs to the complaint procedure and EDR mechanisms to encourage participation of women. The complaint procedures should be clear and easy to use for women and there is need for targeted voter education campaigns to increase understanding of the EDR process. In addition, women must be accorded the necessary support to lodge complaints and the complaint form should be amended to allow for sex-disaggregated data of complaints filed by both men and women.

EXPENSES FOR THE QUARTER

During Q2, a total of US\$ 1,288,437 was spent for this output, please see [Annex 2](#).

Below is a snapshot of where UNESP is in relation to its 2019 annual targets.

Output 4 performance indicator table

ProDoc Indicators	Baseline	Annual Targets	Q2 Planned	Q2 Actual	Comments
4.1. Percentage of materials (items) for voter registration, as per the IEC operational plan, procured on time.	100%	100%	100%	100%	On Track. 433 out of 459 planned movements
4.2. A credible polling centre specific voter list for the upcoming elections is finalised by the IEC.	66%	100%	100%	89.6%	On Track. Some VRCs could not open for security reasons.
4.3.1. Number of gender sensitization training sessions.	1	4	2	0	Off Track. [Changing electoral timelines resulted in altered training schedule. In Q2, UNESP conducted consultation meetings for Q3 training rollout]
4.3.2. Number of gender sensitization training beneficiaries (security personnel, IEC personnel, etc.)	6	124	62	0	Off Track. [related to 4.3.1]

E. OUTPUT 5: The IEC and ECC provide credible administration of an electoral dispute resolution for the Wolesi Jirga and District Council elections, respectively.

The project continued to provide technical and operational support to the IEC to administer the Wolesi Jirga elections. Similarly, the project supported the ECC in addressing electoral irregularities in all phases of the electoral process, to resolve electoral disputes, and to enforce the legal and regulatory requirements for participation in and contestation of the elections. In the period under review, the project provided technical inputs in the adjudication and review of appeals and results processing for the remaining provinces. Following the decision by the IEC not to conduct Wolesi Jirga elections for Ghazni province in 2019, the project has discontinued election day related activities under this output.

IEC Data Centre: The tally process was completed in accordance to the IEC Tally Procedure. UNESP provided technical assistance in support of development of Tally Centre Software and related reporting. Following the completion of this, the final results were announced for the 10 remaining provinces. More details are provided on the section on [Announcement of Wolesi Jirga results](#).

Training on candidate nomination: From 29 to 30 May 2019, the IEC with technical support from the project trained 34 External Relations Officers (1 woman) on candidate nomination for Provincial Council and Ghazni Wolesi Jirga elections and observer accreditation. *The IEC decision not to hold these elections in 2019 was communicated too late to cancel the training.* The External Relations Officers will use the knowledge to support observer accreditation in the Presidential elections.

Announcement of Wolesi Jirga results

Preliminary results: In late April 2019, the ECC issued a decision invalidating all assessments, audits and recounts conducted by IEC and ECC for Kabul province, then proceeded to validate the Kabul results which met required standards of electoral procedures in early May 2019. In mid-May 2019, once the ECC finalized validation, including adjudication of appeals against the Kabul Wolesi Jirga results, the IEC announced the preliminary results for 33 winning candidates (9 women).

Final results: In April and mid-May 2019, the IEC published the final Wolesi Jirga election results for Baghlan, Helmand, Kabul, Kandahar, Kunduz, Logar, Maidan Wardak, Nangarhar, Paktia, Takhar provinces as well as the Kuchi constituency. A total 116 parliamentary candidates were announced as winners, with women candidates constituting 26.7 percent (31 women) of the winning candidates.

Month	Provinces and constituencies announced	Women	Men	Total
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April	9	Baghlan, Helmand, Kandahar, Kunduz, Logar, Maidan Wardak, Nangarhar, Paktya, Takhar	22	61	83
	1	Kuchi constituency			
May	1	Kabul	9	24	33
Total	10 provinces and 1 constituency		31	85	116

Table 9: Summary of Wolesi Jirga election results announced in the period under review

Certification of winning candidates: At two ceremonies on 24 April and 15 June, the IEC conducted certification ceremonies for 159 winning WJ candidates (43 women) from 15 provinces and the two constituencies [Kuchi and Sikh]. The IEC has inaugurated all MPs elected in the 2018 Wolesi Jirga election.

Month	Provinces and constituencies of certified winning candidates		Women	Men	Total
April	10	Nangarhar, Badghis, Paktika, Ghor, Logar, Takhar, Helmand, Herat, Balkh, Kandahar	24	64	88
	1	Sikh constituency	0	1	1
June	5	Kabul, Kunduz, Baghlan, Maidan Wardak, Paktia	16	44	60
	1	Kuchi constituency	3	7	10
Total	15 provinces and 2 constituencies		43	116	159

Table 10: Summary of winning candidates who were awarded certificates by IEC

Finance

Payment of training cost of voter registration staff: The VR payroll for the 776 remaining temporary staff was approved for payments of staff in the next quarter.

Payment of training cost of polling centre staff: in the period under review, the project completed verification of documents for 91,988 polling centre staff. Cumulatively verification was completed for 98,400 polling centre staff of 31 provinces of the 33 provinces [excluding Nuristan and Nangarhar]. The payrolls and payment documents for 28 provinces¹⁷ of the 31 were approved with payments expected in the next quarter. The payrolls for three provinces, Baghlan, Khost and Kabul, are submitted to the IEC for clearance. The project continued to follow up with the IEC on the missing hard copies for Nuristan province as well as missing soft copies for Nangarhar province.

Asset declaration: According to the Geneva Mutual Accountability Framework (GMAF), the IEC is obliged to submit the asset declaration of the successful Wolesi Jirga candidates to the Administrative Office of the President (AOP) for the verification purposes. The project facilitated the meeting between UNAMA Rule of Law Team and

¹⁷ Farah, Kunar, Badghis, Nimruz, Laghman, Jawzjan, Kapisa, Daikundi, Paktika, Panjshir, Sar-e-Pul, Zabol, Faryab, Logar, Kunduz, Ghor, Takhar, Bamyan, Samangan, Helmand, Wardak, Parwan, Kandahar, Balkh, Herat, Badakhshan, Uruzgan and Paktia

IEC External Relations and Legal Departments to discuss the issue and provided technical inputs. Consequently, the IEC met with the AOP on 17 June 2019, leading to a mutual understanding of roles and obligations on both sides. The project will continue to follow further proceedings in the next quarter.

EXPENSES FOR THE QUARTER

During Q2, a total of US\$ 1,033,834 was spent for this output, please see [Annex 2](#).

Below is a snapshot of where UNESP is in relation to its 2019 annual targets.

Output 5 performance indicator table

ProDoc Indicators	Baseline	Annual Targets	Q2 Planned	Q2 Actual	Comments
5.1. Percentage of Polling Centres/Polling Stations receiving electoral materials for the Wolesi Jirga and District Council elections. (Note: As required and requested by the IEC, delivered by the Project as per the IEC operational plan.)	91.78%	100%	100%	0%	Off Track. Ghazni WJ no longer planned for 2019.
5.1.1. Percentage of procured equipment (USD Value), as per the IEC operational plan. (Note: As required and requested by the IEC, delivered by the Project as per the IEC operational plan.)	100%	100%	100%	0%	Off Track. Ghazni WJ no longer planned for 2019.
5.2 Percentage of media complaints adjudicated by the Media Committee in a timely manner.	100%	100%	Not planned	Not planned	Not applicable for this Quarter.
5.2.1 The IEC Media Committee is in place, according to the Electoral Law.	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	On Track.
5.3 Percentage of candidate nominations for the Wolesi Jirga and District Council elections vetted by the IEC (breakdown WJ/DC, F/M).	100%	100%	100%	0%	Off Track. Ghazni WJ no longer planned for 2019.
5.3.1. Candidate vetting (verification) procedures are in place for the WJ and DC elections as approved by the IEC.	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	On Track.
5.3.2 Procedures on the candidate nomination complaints process are in place for the Wolesi Jirga and District Council elections, as approved by the ECC.	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	On Track.

ProDoc Indicators	Baseline	Annual Targets	Q2 Planned	Q2 Actual	Comments
5.4 Percentage of Polling Centres and Polling Stations that open for polling on 20 October, as per the IEC operational plan.	94.84%	Not planned	Not planned	Not planned	Not applicable for this Quarter.
5.4.1 Number of trainings delivered to the IEC and ECC temporary polling staff, on counting, polling and results processing procedures for the Wolesi Jirga and District Council elections.	2,961 excluding Farah	TBD	Not planned	Not planned	Not applicable for this Quarter.
5.4.2 Number of IEC and ECC temporary polling staff trained in counting, polling and results processing procedures for the WJ and DC elections (M/F)	T: 102,313 F: 30,464 M: 71,849	TBD	Not planned	Not planned	Not applicable for this Quarter.
5.5.1 Provisional polling results publicized on time (according to the electoral calendar) by the IEC.	Yes	Yes	Not planned	Not planned	Not applicable for this Quarter.
5.5.1.1 Procedures for Results Management System and processes are in place, as approved by the IEC.	Yes	Yes	Not planned	Not planned	Not applicable for Q1.
5.5.2 Final polling results publicized on time (according to the electoral calendar) by the IEC.	No	Yes	Yes	No	Off Track. Prolonged adjudication of complaints.
5.5.2.1. Data centre (infrastructure, software and training plan for data centre operators) is in place.	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	On Track.

F. OUTPUT 6: The IEC and ECC are able to provide credible administration of, and electoral dispute resolution for, the 2019 Presidential elections

Following an announcement by the IEC to conduct the Presidential election on 28 September 2019, the UNESP revised the project document to incorporate an output (Output 6) for the presidential elections, results framework and other accompanying annexes. The revised project document which incorporates review comments from the donors will be signed in the next quarter. Simultaneously, the project worked with both EMBs to review and update related legal frameworks, policies and procedures to align with the new electoral calendar. The project provided logistical and financial support to begin the mass production of designing and procuring sensitive and non-sensitive electoral materials and prepare the IEC HQ for storage and movement of said materials.

Presidential candidate nomination: Following changes to the electoral timeline, the vetting of the presidential election candidates and submission of a certified list to the IEC was extended to 20 April 2019. Then, at a press conference of 24 April 2019, the ECC announced certification of the Presidential Election candidate list and consequent submission to the IEC for the ballot lottery. Thereafter, on 25 April 2019, the IEC, with technical and advisory support from the project conducted the ballot lottery to establish the order of presidential candidates on the ballot paper. At least 100 external interlocutors including representatives of all 18 candidates, civil society, political

د تانگو خیلواک کمیسیون		کمیسیون مستقل انتخابات	
د ۱۳۹۸ کال د جمهوري ریاست د نوماندانو نوملړ		لیست کاندیدان ریاست جمهوری سال ۱۳۹۸	
د نوماند نوم	د نوماند کسور	د نوماند نښان	د نوماند نکتیزه شمیره
رحمت الله نیل			1038-4-12
سید نور الله جلیلی			1044-6-3
دکتور فرامرز لشنا			1012-32-7
شینا محمد ابالی			1015-27-17
احمد ولی مسعود			1035-8-11
نور رحمان لوال			1025-5-16
محمد شهاب حکیمی			1033-4-8
محمد الشرف غنی			1055-5-15

د تانگو خیلواک کمیسیون		کمیسیون مستقل انتخابات	
د ۱۳۹۸ کال د جمهوري ریاست د نوماندانو نوملړ		لیست کاندیدان ریاست جمهوری سال ۱۳۹۸	
د نوماند نوم	د نوماند کسور	د نوماند نښان	د نوماند نکتیزه شمیره
محمد حکیم نورمن			1037-1-2
گنډین حکمتیار			1042-19-10
عبداللطیف پزام			1002-17-1
نور الحق علمي			2021-1-6
حاجی محمد ابراهیم الکوزی			1003-27-13
پوهاند پروفیسور دکتور غلام فاروق نجریبی			1007-2-18
عنایت الله حفیظ			1029-4-4
محمد حنیف التمر			1058-7-9

Figure 4(a) and (b): Order of presidential candidates on the ballot paper

parties and international community attended. The process was considered successful and no complaints were registered against the ballot lottery.

Use of biometrics: Following extensive discussions on time limitations to conducting full biometric voter registration (BVR) prior to the Presidential election, the IEC reversed their decision to for BVR, instead deciding on 16 May 2019 to conduct VR top-up manually. Then, on 20 May 2019, the IEC further announced that biometrics will be used on election day. The biometric voter verification (BVV) will capture the voter's sticker number, two fingerprints, photo and picture of the national identity card (*Tazkira*). The IEC has also provided a special clause allowing women to opt in or out of having their photo taken. On 19 June 2019, at a technical meeting, 22 representatives of the Civil Society Election Coordination Group and presidential candidates' representatives were sensitized on use of biometrics in elections. The participants raised the issues of trust and sufficient timeline to implement technology including recommendations to postpone till 2020 to ensure the election can be held in a transparent and credible manner.

Biometrics in elections – overview of screens that would be used with biometric devices

- **Opening the polling station:** device operator sets up the device and indicates the PC (picture, barcode, QR code, etc.) and how many voters are registered there.
- **Report back to the IEC:** applies to polling stations that open and are able to connect to the internet.
- **Voting preparation and voting** [the device should support the manual process]: polling staff manually search the VR to ensure that the person is on voter list and able to vote at the polling station [device should be helpful to give additional information "you are on the list, but in the wrong PS"; also help to locate the name in the register: "look at the page xx for voter yy".
- **Closing the PC:** chairperson allows anyone in the queue to register, counts how many ballots were received, how many are left, how many are spoilt ballots.
- **Results capturing in the machine:** result slip photo [people have working the entire day and are tired, so expect mathematical errors. If no such errors and things are too perfect, very suspicious]
- Observers to work very closely to indicate if the numbers do not match.

Development of relevant legal frameworks: Following the decision to conduct President elections, the project provided technical inputs to the amendment of the regulatory frameworks for accreditation, political campaign financing, political campaigns, accreditation, recruitment of temporary staff, polling, tallying, counting and adjudication of complaints [reported under [IEC Regulations, Guidelines, Procedures, Codes of Conduct, and Plans](#) and [ECC Regulations, Guidelines, Procedures, Codes of Conduct, and Plans](#)].

Operational Plans: After the decision of the IEC Commission not to use BVR in upcoming elections, the project provided technical inputs to the review of the Operational Plan for the Presidential elections, the plan was approved. In addition, the IEC Commission also approved the Operational Plan for VR top -up. The ECC Commission also approved the amended Operational Plan which was updated with technical support from the project.

Simulation Packing of Blue Boxes for Presidential Election: On 17 June 2019, the Logistics, Training and Planning departments conducted a simulation for packing of blue boxes at Warehouse 3. From the simulation, it has been agreed that materials for two polling stations will be packed in one box with labels. The project has provided technical inputs on the labelling to reflect details of the two stations and serial numbers of the packed ballots.

Media Committee: The Media Committee established for the Wolesi Jirga election will continue to be responsible for media monitoring in the Presidential election. The Media Policy drafted with technical inputs from the project was submitted to the Board of Commissioners for review. On 2 June 2019, at a press conference attended by nine media representatives, the Media Committee presented media regulations for the elections period. The Media Committee called upon the media to respect the electoral campaign period when organizing programmes in presence of candidates and to ensure equal representation of presidential candidates. The Media Committee stated that media should promote democratic participation through communicating the importance of elections and the right of citizens to vote; raising awareness on civic and political rights and procedures and sensitizing citizens on the role of the Media Committee in the electoral process.

Biometric devices for the Presidential elections: The IEC received 8,008 biometric voter verification (BVV) devices, 8,000 printers and 8,008 power banks from the National Statistics and Information Authority (NSIA). The next batch of equipment will be delivered in the next quarter. In addition, the National Procurement Authority (NPA) will procure additional biometric equipment for the Presidential election.

Developments around the Presidential election: the documented developments include:

- The Council of Presidential Candidates (CPC) and the Political Committee of Political Parties established a Joint Committee with the aim of preparing a proposal on how to address the credibility of the elections.
- In various statements in the month of June, members of the CPC have accused President Ghani of premature election campaigning, use of resources, interference in electoral preparations and influencing recruitment, particularly at the level of Provincial Election Offices. They also announced intention to boycott the upcoming

presidential election should President Ghani remain in power and group reiterated its previous demands for a caretaker government. On 25 June 2019, CPC staged a demonstration and called on President Ghani to resign and allow a limited acting administration to oversee the presidential elections. The CPC also released a statement calling on President Ghani to resign in order to contest the presidential elections or to withdraw his candidacy in order to administer the elections.

- On 22 June, the Ministry of Finance (MOF) reaffirmed the Government's commitment to fund the elections with the Deputy Presidential Spokesperson Shah Hussai Murtazawi stressing that the Government is prepared to provide the election budget. By end of the quarter, the Ministry of Finance was yet to approve the election budget for the two EMBs.

EXPENSES FOR THE QUARTER

During Q2, a total of US\$0 was spent for this output, owing to the pending signing of the updated UNESP ProDoc, which occurred on 1 August 2019.

Below is a snapshot of where UNESP is in relation to its 2019 quarter two targets.

Output 6 performance indicator table

ProDoc Indicators	Baseline	Annual Targets	Q2 Planned	Q2 Actual	Comments
6.1. Percentage of candidate nominations for the Presidential elections vetted by the IEC (disaggregated F/M).	0%	100%	100%	100%	On Track.
6.2 Percentage of Polling Centres/Polling Stations receiving electoral materials for election day.	0%	100%	Not planned	Not planned	Not applicable for this Quarter.
6.2.1 Number of IEC and ECC temporary polling staff trained in counting, polling and results processing procedures for the Presidential election (disaggregated M/F).	0	178,545	Not planned	Not planned	Not applicable for this Quarter.
6.2.2 Percentage of Polling Centres/Polling Stations that open for polling on election day, as per the IEC operational plan.	0	100%	Not planned	Not planned	Not applicable for this Quarter.
6.2.3 Percentage of media complaints adjudicated by the Media Committee in a timely manner, according to the adjudication schedule.	0%	100%	Not planned	Not planned	Not applicable for this Quarter.
6.2.4 Number of people accredited for electoral observation (disaggregated domestic observer/political party monitor/media/candidate's agents; F/M).	0	200,000	Not planned	Not planned	Not applicable for this Quarter.
6.3.1 Provisional polling results publicized on time, according to the electoral calendar by the IEC.	No	Yes	Not planned	Not planned	Not applicable for this Quarter.
6.3.2 Final polling results publicized on time, according to the electoral calendar by the IEC.	No	Yes	Not planned	Not planned	Not applicable for this Quarter.
6.3.3 Data centre with infrastructure, software and training plan for data centre operators is in place.	No	Yes	Not planned	Not planned	Not applicable for this Quarter.

ProDoc Indicators	Baseline	Annual Targets	Q2 Planned	Q2 Actual	Comments
6.4 Percentage of electoral complaints, which are timely adjudicated by the ECC as per the national electoral legal framework.	0	100%	Not planned	Not planned	Not applicable for this Quarter.

III. GENDER-SPECIFIC RESULTS

Gender inclusive recruitment in ECC and IEC: The project continued to provide recommendations on human resources, these are intended to attract women to apply at the EMBs and retention of women already employed in the EMBs. These include relaxing the recruitment criteria and extending deadlines to encourage women to apply; extensive dissemination of advertisements to ensure more potential candidates can apply; on the job mentoring of women and facilitating participation of women in trainings, forums and meetings. In addition, the project proposed revisiting of leave policies for temporary staff, particularly the maternity leave to ensure women have paid time off to nurse new-born babies. The intentional inclusion of staff from Gender Unit to ensure there is some consideration of gender inclusive considerations in shortlisting processes has already been adopted in the IEC, the project will continue to monitor the effectiveness of this initiative.

Gender proofing of regulatory documents and presentations: The project provided technical inputs from a gender perspective in the drafting of the Polling and Counting Procedures. The project also provided technical support in development of talking points and presentation on 'Gender in election observation, monitoring and reporting' targeting prospective observers, monitors, media representatives and candidate's agents.

Targeted public outreach campaigns: In the just ended voter registration processes, the project provided technical inputs into the development of relevant PSAs to encourage citizens including women and youth. The project also provided technical support to the conducting of 34,451 grassroots meetings attended by 1,209,773 citizens comprising youths, activists, minorities, women, citizens with special needs and residents of remote areas. A total 11,247 of the 34,451 meetings were dedicated to women and a total 288,708 attended, therefore women constituted 23.9 percent of the participants.

Recruitment status in IEC: The IEC Training Department recruited HQ Trainers and Assistants, Provincial Trainers, Public Outreach Trainers and Civic Educators. Cumulatively, 24.6 percent of the 1,173 staff are women. In addition, 25 percent of the 36 Call Centre operators and supervisors are women and one of the two Non-Voting International Commissioners is a woman. On *Tashkeel* staffing, women constitute 5.6 percent of the recruited staff, a 0.2 percent increase from the previous quarter. The number of women in senior positions increased from 3.4 percent to 5.8 percent in the period under review. At this stage, the IEC remains far below the target of 20 percent women in the *Tashkeel* structure.

Recruitment status in ECC: With the exception of the non-voting Commissioners, all other recruitments were on hold. Overall, in the ECC, 8.7 percent of the filled positions are occupied by women and 6.8 percent of the senior positions are filled by women. The ECC currently falls short of the target to recruit 20 percent women in the *Tashkeel* structure.

Participation in trainings: At least 34.8 percent of the 3,186 trained voter registration staff were women. In addition, at the ECC, 17.6 percent of the 17 trained staff were women. This highlights that both female and male staff are provided opportunities for training, while the percentage of women remains lower, there is evidence of inclusion and participation of women in electoral processes.

Participation in voter registration processes: Preliminary figures showed that 318,534 citizens (36.6% women) and 83,253 citizens (32.3% women) had registered for voting. Cumulatively, women constitute 35.7 percent of the 401,787 registered voters.

IV. PARTNERSHIPS

In the period under review, the project maintained the following partnerships:

United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan (UNAMA): The UNAMA continued to dedicate human resources in support to the 2019 Presidential elections. The UNAMA continued to actively convene and participate in consultations on electoral issues of political bearing beyond the scope of UNESP. The UNAMA led the development of key messages and joint statements for the Electoral Support Group and also facilitated the conducting of the weekly working level and ambassadorial meetings.

UNAMA public outreach efforts in regional offices: At the field level, the UNAMA Field Offices, at times in collaboration with UNESP project staff, initiated stakeholder engagement meetings, facilitated public outreach activities, civic education and on mobilization of the population for voter registration. The UNAMA organized public outreach events in Baghlan, Paktya [28 participants], Khost [29 participants] and Uruzgan, on enhancing civil society and media engagement in the electoral processes. These events were attended by women and civil society activists, local and national media representatives, the PECC, PIEC, FEFA and TEFA representatives. The civil society and the media representatives, and the PIEC/PECC committed to work closely and maintain good coordination in electoral processes and agreed to continue holding similar engagements on a regular basis. In addition, UNAMA participated in a number of coordination meetings with provincial stakeholders in Nangarhar, Balkh, Herat, Faryab, Badakhshan on electoral processes. These coordination meetings were also

attended by Ulama, civil society activists, local and international NGOs and in some instances university students.

Electoral Support Group (ESG): The UNAMA, through the ESG coordinating mechanism at Ambassadorial and working group level, facilitated international coordination on electoral issues at a strategic political level. Throughout the reporting period the UNAMA, working with ESG Ambassadors held numerous meetings to bring the EMBs and senior political party leaders together with a focus on greater communications, broader consultations, and informed decision making. Some areas of discussions centred on use of biometrics in the election; number of elections to be held in 2019, the financing of the 2019 Presidential elections and the conduct of candidates.

Donors: The donors from Australia, Denmark, the EU, Germany, Italy, Japan, Norway, Sweden, the USA and the UK continued to support the electoral processes.

National Partners: The project continued to work with the IEC and the ECC as their key national partners. The project also collaborated with the Ministry of Finance on budget related discussions for the 2019 Presidential elections.

Civil Society Sector: The project continued to support the EMBs in engagement of the electoral civil society organizations (CSOs) in the country. The Stakeholder Engagement Plan aimed at creating a space in the IEC where CSOs and other stakeholders can openly discuss electoral issues is developed for roll out in the next quarter. The EMBs engaged national and international CSOs in consultation meetings, while the IEC regularly attends the Civil Society Election Coordination Group (CECG) meetings co-facilitated by the project.

Security Coordination mechanism: The project continued working level partnerships with the security coordination partners [Ministry of Interior Affairs, NATO Resolute Support and Ministry of Defense]. They collaborated on security assessments and related movement of electoral materials.

Consultative meetings on participation of women in electoral processes: The project in collaboration with the IEC Gender Unit continued collaboration with the Ministry of Women's Affairs and Department of Women's Affairs at the provincial level in consultative meetings on participation of women in electoral processes including recruitment of female searchers for the VR process.

V. ISSUES

Please refer to [Annex III: Issue Log](#) for a detailed breakdown. Issues which have shaped the operating environment in 2019 include the following developments.

Postponement of Ghazni Wolesi Jirga, Provincial Council and District Council Elections: In late May, the IEC announced the decision to conduct only one election in 2019. Consequently, the three other elections shall be held at a date yet to be communicated by the EMB. This decision affected candidate nomination processes that had been running in anticipation of Ghazni WJ and Provincial Council elections.

Response: The project directed their technical and operational support to the Ghazni VR and Presidential elections.

Security environment: The security environment affected voter registration processes in some provinces. In Ghazni, six extra black districts and five black districts downgraded to high security level. In addition, at the start of VR top-up, there were high security threats in six districts [Balkh (1), Kunduz (2), Wardak (1) Nuristan (1), and Nangahar (1)] previously assessed as low-medium threat and movements were reportedly not possible to these districts.

Response: The role of the project continued to be provision of technical inputs to the security coordination mechanism and feedback from operations teams in the provinces.

Prolonged announcement of Wolesi Jirga results: The announcement of Wolesi Jirga was marred by a high number of electoral complaints and subsequent adjudication following the number of consultation meetings on Kabul Wolesi Jirga results. Additionally, the announcement of parliamentary election results prompted low-scale protests and demonstrations by disgruntled candidates, candidates' agents and supporters against the ECC and IEC as indicated under [Electoral Security](#).

Response: The project continued to provide technical inputs to the review of complaints and decisions about the appeals received.

VI. RISKS

Please refer to [Annex IV: Risk Log](#) for a detailed breakdown.

EMB Decision Delays: The IEC took a while to make a decision on the extent to which biometrics would be used in the election. While at the onset, they had intended to incorporate biometrics in voter registration, voting and results transmission; following a number of consultations with political parties, civil society, donors and the ESG, the IEC back-tracked and decided to use biometrics only on election day.

Response: The project provided technical inputs on the implications of introducing biometrics and supported the relevant departments on scenario planning related to the use of biometrics in elections. The project also provided technical inputs to the

review of regulations, procedures and operational plans once the EMB had decided on biometrics.

Security Risk: Volatile security environment continued to affect electoral processes.

Response: The project continued supporting cooperation and coordination with the EMBs, ANDSF, and NATO RS so that access to as many VR sites as possible were secured throughout the electoral exercises.

Political Independence Risk: Excessive political interference affects the work of the EMBs.

Response: The project, in concordance with the international community in Afghanistan, supported the IEC in preserving their autonomy from political interference.

Logistical Risks: Logistical breakdowns affect electoral operations.

Response: UNESP and the IEC continued to coordinate with ANDSF and NATO representatives for all items regarding security of people, goods, and operations.

VII. FUTURE PLANS

In the next quarter (July – September 2019), the project will provide operational, financial, technical, and advisory assistance to the EMBs to the 2019 Presidential elections.

- Continued support to the ECC on adjudication of complaints registered during processes.
- Technical support to the IEC on campaign finance.
- Technical and advisory support to the Media Committee to ensure fair and impartial coverage of the electoral campaign.
- Logistical support for VR Ghazni and material retrieval to the IEC HQ.
- Security assessments for polling centres/polling stations for upcoming elections.
- Recruitment and training of counting, polling, results processing and data centre operators.
- Accreditation of observers, media, monitors and candidate agents.
- Development of a Stakeholder Engagement Framework for the IEC.
- Implementation of public outreach plans for upcoming elections.
- Advisory and policy support to proactive and meaningful stakeholder engagement.
- Updating the corrections made to the voter list during public display of the VL.
- Operational support for the procurement of electoral materials for election day.
- Logistical support for the delivery of electoral materials to the PCs/PS.

Technical inputs for the use of biometric devices on election day.

VIII. ANNEXES

ANNEX I: FINANCIAL TABLE

Donor Name	COMMITMENT/ PAST YEARS RECORD				CURRENT YEAR (2019)					FUTURE EXPENSES		TOTAL RECEIVABLE		
	Commitment (a)	Revenue Collected 31/12/2018 (b)	Expenses 31/12/2018 (c)	Other Revenue (d)	Opening Balance E=(b-c+d)	Contribution Revenue (f)	Other Revenue (g)	Expenses (h)	Closing Balance I=(e+f+g-h)	Commitments (Unliquidated Obligations) (j)	Undepreciated of fixed Assets and Inventory (k)	(Future Due) L=(a-b-f)	(Past Due) (m)	Available Resources N=(i-j-k)
Denmark	1,432,323	1,432,323	1,462,232	39,174	9,265	-	-	-	9,265	8,490	-	-	-	775
DFID	4,823,814	4,823,814	4,519,704		304,109	-	-	-	304,109	304,109	-	-	-	0
EU	18,518,519	15,299,341	6,501,567		8,797,774	-		335,406	8,462,368	176,348	-	3,219,178		8,286,020
Germany	8,376,836	8,376,836	6,478,203		1,898,633	-		114,904	1,783,729	576,113	-	-		1,207,616
SIDA	4,442,963	4,442,963	1,202,796		3,240,167	-		278,873	2,961,294	1,126,889	40,922	-		1,793,482
DFAT	5,000,000	2,000,000	1,431,124		568,876	3,000,000		-	3,568,876	-	-	-		3,568,876
Norway	2,368,651	2,368,651	-		2,368,651	-		-	2,368,651	-	-	-		2,368,651
Japan	13,739,390	13,739,390	6,488,723		7,250,667	-		550,965	6,699,702	1,934,241	52,380	-		4,713,081
USAID	39,955,399	29,500,000	17,227,053		12,272,947	-		7,215,943	5,057,004	2,444,252	428,506	10,455,399		2,184,246
Grand Total	98,657,894	81,983,317	45,311,402	39,174	36,711,088	3,000,000	-	8,496,090	31,214,998	6,570,443	521,809	13,674,577	-	24,122,746

Note:

- i) Data contained in this report is an extract of UNDP financial records. The accounting period for the report is an open period and data from some accounting processes may not have been processed.
Financial data provided above may not be complete, and it is provisional
- ii) Income received in currency other than USD is approximated to USD based on UN- Operational Rate of Exch.

ANNEX II: EXPENSES BY OUTPUT

Project Output ID and Description	2019 Budget (AWP)	Expenses (Jan - Mar 2019)	Expenses (Apr - Jun 2019)	Accumulated Expenses (Jan - Jun 2019)	Delivery Rate
Output 1 (00106325): Administration of credible election is facilitated by the meeting of key IEC structural and planning milestones.	10,112,493	1,356,714	2,577,707	3,934,421	39%
Sub-total Output 1	10,112,493	1,356,714	2,577,707	3,934,421	39%
Output 2 (00106326): Credible electoral dispute resolution (EDR) is provided by the Electoral Complaints Commission (ECC).	3,142,598	191,765	540,814	732,579	23%
Sub-total Output 2	3,142,598	191,765	540,814	732,579	23%
Output 3 (00106327): Afghan public and political stakeholders are informed of the electoral process and committed to participating in the next electoral cycle in accordance with the law.	1,404,734	224,812	212,968	437,780	31%
Sub-total Output 3	1,404,734	224,812	212,968	437,780	31%
Output 4 (00108499): A polling centre specific voter list for the Wolesi Jirga, district council and provincial council elections is produced by the IEC.	6,934,030	(14,090)	1,288,437	1,274,347	18%
Sub-total Output 4	6,934,030	(14,090)	1,288,437	1,274,347	18%
Output 5 (00111484): The IEC and ECC provide credible administration of and electoral dispute resolution for the Wolesi Jirga and District Council elections, respectively	21,810,308	1,083,130	1,033,834	2,116,964	10%
Sub-total Output 5	21,810,308	1,083,130	1,033,834	2,116,964	10%
Grand Total	43,404,163	2,842,330	5,653,760	8,496,090	20%

ANNEX III: ISSUE LOG

#	Description	Date Identified	Impact/ Priority	Countermeasure	Owner	Status
1	Changing GoIRA and EMBs focus and priorities. Uncertain political will and conflicting agendas among major political stakeholders regarding the implementation of the long overdue 2018 Election.	October 2017	Impact 4 Priority 2	UNESP has remained flexible in the changing political environment, while supporting a timely implementation of all electoral phases.	NUG	No change
2	Lack of clarification regarding constituency delimitation, continued past deadlines for consequent electoral changes.	October 2017	Impact 3 Priority 2	UNESP will support the IEC to take measures when the new constituency delimitation will be officially announced.	IDLG and NUG	No change
3	Political Turmoil. A number of political parties are jointly demanding change of the electoral system threaten with boycotting elections, even at the risk of postponing elections beyond 2018	March 2018	Impact 4 Priority 1	The Election Support Group has continued to be engaged in high level discussions for the 2019 electoral processes.	UNAMA, Political Parties	No change
4	IEC states that elections cannot be held in 11 "black" districts under AGE control. Security incidents, and in particular election-related incidents and casualties, increased in the fighting season and with the start of the VR. Threats demotivate a number of potential voters from registering to vote.	October 2017	Impact 5 Priority 1	UNESP will continue supporting the EMBs in their cooperation with the ANDSF and NATO RS to maximize security during all phases of the electoral process. In the just concluded voter registration processes, there were 22 black districts.	ANDSF	Increasing
5	Lack of awareness about roles of DCs, no government budget or salaries for these positions, and insecurity contribute to low DC candidate nominations	June 2018	Impact 5 Priority 1	UNESP will provide advisory support to the IEC to provide alternatives for districts with insufficient number of DC candidates.	IEC	No change
6.	DC election postponement has affected UNESP support to the electoral processes.	September 2018	Impact 5 Priority 1	Nil action at this time. UNESP to recommence support at time of DC election announcement.	IEC	No change
7.	Introduction of BVV use on Election Day	September 2018	Impact 5 Priority 1	Increased UNESP support to the IEC regarding procurement, training and movement plans.	IEC	Increasing

ANNEX IV: RISK LOG

#	Description	Date Identified	Type	Impact & Probability	Countermeasures / Management response	Owner	Submitted	Last Update	Status
1	Important decisions are delayed, delaying in turn electoral preparations. (1) Slow recruitment, especially of senior level positions within the IEC decreases the efficacy of the body. (2) Delays in planning, last minute changes in planning, and over-reliance on UNESP advisors' technical decisions affects procurement and logistical operations. (3) ACCRA's slow pace of Tazkira issuance in remote and inaccessible areas prevents people to register to vote.	November 2017	Regulatory, Organisational	Impact: 5 Probability: 5	Advise and support the IEC to prioritize and accelerate recruitment of senior level positions. Advise the IEC to speed up and complete planning and decision-making exercises. Advise the IEC to work closely with ACCRA emphasizing the causal relationship between Tazkira issuance and successful elections.	NUG, IEC, ACCRA	UNESP	13 July 2019	No change
2	Political interference in the EMBs. The controversial situation of President's interference in the case of Tazkira copies. Political parties' pressure for major electoral reforms and protests blocking the Ghazni IEC office.	November 2017	Political	Impact: 4 Probability: 4	Work with IEC to strengthen their independence, to increase the transparency of their work and build public support and trust.	NUG	UNESP	13 July 2019	Reducing
3	Electoral stakeholders refuse to recognize results or respond to allegations of fraud through noninstitutional means, including the threats and/or use of violence. Electoral stakeholders in the previous parliamentary and presidential elections threatened to commit violence if results were not reviewed. Allegations of fraud, whether substantiated or not, have in the past undermined the reputation of the EMBs and generated serious political instability.	October 2017	Political	Impact: 4 Probability: 5	Increased focus on building voter confidence and that of electoral stakeholders on the capacity, integrity, and impartiality of the EMBs so that the results of the election are acceptable for everyone.	EMBs, UNESP & Donors	UNESP	13 July 2019	Reducing
4	The government limits UN support to the electoral process. The government has indicated on several occasions that it has reservations regarding the UN's involvement in national projects.	November 2017	Political	Impact: 5 Probability: 1	UN will strengthen its engagement with the government institutions through its good offices to ensure the government is aware of UN's added	UNAMA and UNDP	UNESP	13 July 2019	Reducing

#	Description	Date Identified	Type	Impact & Probability	Countermeasures / Management response	Owner	Submitted	Last Update	Status
5	Geography, climate, and (lack of) infrastructure create delays. No major issues were encountered in the delivery of electoral materials. Minor issues include AGE attacks on convoys and VR sites, with marginal destruction of electoral materials.	October 2017	Operational	Impact: 2 Probability: 2	UNESP adjusts its logistics plans according to the security, geographic, and infrastructure setup, ANDSF provides air support for movement of electoral materials on IEC request.	ANDSF, IEC, UNESP	UNESP	13 July 2019	No change
6	Security. Increasing threats, number of incidents, and casualties affect the VR and CN numbers, and will affect the voter turnout. At least 11 “black” districts won’t have elections, according to the IEC.	November 2017	Other (Security)	Impact: 5 Probability: 5	Work with IEC, ANDSF, and NATO RS to ensure security of sites, staff, voters, candidates and observers, and to enable access to as many sites as	ANDSF, AGE	UNESP	13 July 2019	Increasing
7	Security. The security environment deteriorates to the point where the EMBs are unable to function in parts of the country. Insecurity in the country has dramatically escalated over the years. According to security analysts, this is expected to remain the same or worsen in the period covered by this project document. AGE’s have been explicit in their intention to intensify their attacks. IEC personnel and facilities have been attacked in previous elections.	November 2017	Other (Security)	Impact: 4 Probability: 4	Formulate a comprehensive Security Response Plan for different threat levels. Liaise and coordinate with the government to provide adequate security for EMB facilities.	EMBs and UNESP, GoIRA	UNESP	13 July 2019	Increasing
8	Logistical breakdowns. Minor logistical challenges encountered due to terrain, distance and security risks.	October 2017	Operational	Impact: 3 Probability: 3	Air support provided for movement of electoral materials in inaccessible or high-risk areas.	Multiple	UNESP	13 July 2019	No change
9	Electoral fraud. Allegations of all types of electoral fraud received from all parts of the country. IEC and ACCRA staff implicated.	October 2017	Organisational / Legal	Impact: 4 Probability: 3	Work with the IEC and the ECC to prevent fraud, closely monitor electoral processes and staff, and refer cases to the responsible institutions. The project will recruit Anti-corruption consultants to assist IEC in this regard.	Multiple	UNESP	13 July 2019	No change
10	Constituency Delimitation decision delayed past the deadline. Zero impact on 2018 elections. Risk to be revisited for 2019 elections.	October 2017	Regulatory	Impact: 0 Probability: 0	No response required at this time.	NUG and IDLG	UNESP	13 July 2019	No change

#	Description	Date Identified	Type	Impact & Probability	Countermeasures / Management response	Owner	Submitted	Last Update	Status
11	Polling Results. The 25 political parties threatening to boycott the elections unless the electoral system is changed may lead to their refusal to recognize the polling results.	March 2018	Political	Impact: 3 Probability: 3	High-level meetings are ongoing to ensure consensus and inclusivity of the 2018 elections, and the opening of the Ghazni IEC office.	Multiple	UNESP	13 July 2019	Increasing
12	IEC is unable to recruit the required number of staff - particularly women - to conduct the voter registration exercise. Because of inadequate staffing in some areas, IEC could be forced to open fewer registration centres, therefore disenfranchising voters.	October 2017	Organisational	Impact: 4 Probability: 3	Secure the buy in of religious and tribal leaders in encouraging qualified people, including women, to work with the IEC. Conduct grassroot level meetings and consultative meetings for effective participation of women in electoral processes.	IEC	UNESP	13 July 2019	Reducing
13	Turnover in personnel results in loss of skills acquired through EMBs staff training and institutional memory. Loss of technical capacity within the EMBs will have administrative, operational, and financial implications for the scope of work. This will also impact overall coordination and performance within the EMBs.	October 2017	Organizational	Impact: 3 Probability: 2	Appropriate capacity building measures within the EMBs to create internal resilience. Knowledge management systems to be developed.	EMBs, UNESP	UNESP	13 July 2019	No change
14	Gender mainstreaming falls short of targets in the EMBs. The training and other support activities might be insufficient in and of themselves to address the deep-seated cultural prejudices which disadvantage women, the disabled, Kuchis, and other marginalised social groups.	October 2017	Gender	Impact: 2 Probability: 2	Integrate the specific needs of women in all EMB policies, plans and procedures. Coordinate the work of the IEC Gender Unit with relevant activities and/or programmes of the MOWA, UN Women, and CSOs, with the support of UN Women as required.	IEC, UNESP	UNESP	13 July 2019	No change

#	Description	Date Identified	Type	Impact & Probability	Countermeasures / Management response	Owner	Submitted	Last Update	Status
15	Public awareness of electoral procedures and guidelines remain poor. High levels of illiteracy and the difficult security environment are likely to limit voters' exposure to voter education messages. As a result, an uninformed public is more vulnerable to electoral manipulation.	October 2017	Strategic	Impact: 3 Probability: 4	Use a wide range of non-written materials in voter education campaigns	IEC	UNESP	13 July 2019	Reducing
16	EMBs stakeholder engagement is insufficient. There would be lower confidence in the EMB's ability to function as an institution independent of external assistance, and greater chance of contestation of decisions taken by the EMBs, regardless of the actual quality of those decisions.	October 2017	Strategic	Impact: 3 Probability: 3	Support and encourage the EMBs to establish formalized coordination mechanisms and external reporting systems.	UNESP	UNESP	13 July 2019	Reducing