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Liberia Electoral Support Project 2020-2024 1-31 October 2020 Update

Implementing partner – National Elections Commission



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Media participants take notes on the technical aspects of voter roll update.

Key highlights

- Local Project Appraisal Committee approves new Electoral Assistance Project to Liberia
- NEC completes voter roll update and candidate nomination processes
- UNDP supports NEC in holding briefings for media and disabled peoples' organizations
- Rehabilitation of magisterial warehouses near completion

Project activities

Local Project Appraisal Committee approves new Electoral Assistance Project to Liberia

On 22 September 2020, the Local Project Appraisal Committee unanimously approved the new Electoral Support Project to Liberia. The Project will cover the period from September 2020 through July 2024, including limited support to the 2020 electoral cycle and full support to the upcoming 2023 general elections. A significant focus of the Project is long-term and sustainable capacity-building and institutional strengthening of the National Elections Commission (NEC). The 2020 work plan has been designed jointly with NEC. UNDP has contributed US\$1.7 million to the Project with an overall budget of US\$16 million for the four-year period. The UNDP contribution (and pre-financing) enables the project to support the 2020 elections.

Additional contribution of US\$117,000 was later made by Germany specifically to support COVID-19 preventative items for the 2020 Special Senatorial Elections (SSE) and Referendum. The Project has been working intensively to prepare timely interventions.



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Each form received from the field and scanned into the system is validated (right) and subsequently forwarded for quality control.

NEC completes voter roll update and candidate nomination processes

From 11 to 25 September 2020, NEC held the voter roll update (VRU) exercise for the upcoming SSE and Referendum held on 8 December 2020. A mobile VRU took place over 15 days. Mobile teams spent three days at each of the 2,080 registration centers across Liberia.

The Project supports NEC measures to build confidence in the voter list, including through public communication and voter education.

The candidate nomination period ended on 21 September 2020. In total, 98 males and 20 females submitted their candidacy papers to the NEC to compete for 15 vacant seats in the SSE.

UNDP supports NEC in holding briefings for media and disabled peoples' organizations

From 9-10 and 14-15 September, in Gbarnga City, Bong County and Tubmanburg, Bomi County, the NEC launched regional training sessions for media practitioners on the upcoming VRU, civic and voter education (CVE), SSE, the Referendum, and the integrity of information/misinformation management. Media representatives from across the 15 political subdivisions of Liberia participated, representing both rural and urban communities.

Furthermore, from 21-22 and 24-25 September, the NEC held two two-day consultations with disabled peoples' organizations (DPOs) and persons with disabilities (PWDs) in Kakata, Margibi County and Tubmanburg, Bomi County respectively. This community engagement sought to provide timely and accurate information about the VRU and educate the disabled community on the importance of participating in all the phases of the 2020 SSE.

Inclusion and diversity are at the core of the new UNDP Electoral Support Project, which provided technical, advisory, and financial support to both events.

Rehabilitation of NEC Magisterial Warehouses

In mid-September, the Project conducted a field mission to inspect the last of 12 warehouses and related facilities renovated with UNDP support. The field assessment concluded that the last structure could be handed over to the NEC in early October.