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

Implementing partner – National Elections Commission



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Mayor of Buchanan inaugurates the UNDP-supported NEC briefing for media and persons living with disabilities to increase inclusion and diversity in elections, ahead of the voter roll exhibition period.

Key highlights

- UNDP steps up support to NEC and engagement with development partners ahead of December elections
- UNDP and ECOWAS team deployed to help address vulnerabilities in the voter roll
- UNDP supports NEC in training media to ensure inclusive participation and level playing field
- Rehabilitation of NEC magisterial warehouses completed

Project activities

UNDP steps up support to NEC and engagement with development partners ahead of December elections

Following the approval of the new Liberia Electoral Support Project document at the end of September, UNDP stepped up its support to the National Elections Commission (NEC) ahead of 2020 elections. As per the approved work plan, support is notably being provided to stakeholder engagement, civic and voter education and gender, training of NEC and national stakeholders, and to improving the quality of the electoral process, especially

Project funded by UNDP with contributions from Germany, and implemented by NEC

through a credible voter roll. Also, UNDP hired a referendum consultant to help NEC strengthen public information on referendum questions. Support to Electoral Dispute Resolution (EDR) has been launched with the recruitment of an international EDR adviser. Two national lawyers will soon be joining the team. The UNDP Chief Technical Adviser continues providing advice to the Board of Commissioners, Executive Director and his Deputies, as well as various NEC Departments, including revising plans and procedures.

Moreover, UNDP also stepped up its engagement with development partners. In addition to the UNDP-NEC Technical Working Group now held every two weeks, the UNDP Resident Representative chairs bi-weekly information discussions on elections, discussing concerns, challenges, and support strategies to support a peaceful and credible Special Senatorial Election and Referendum on 8 December.

UNDP and ECOWAS teams deployed to help to address vulnerabilities in the voter roll

The NEC has received a team of international experts to support the data center ahead of the voter roll exhibition. The UNDP consultant and ECOWAS teams were deployed to NEC in October to support the deduplication of the data and to improve the overall quality of the final registration roll. The ECOWAS mission, led by Ms. Charlotte Ossei, former Chair of the Ghana Electoral Commission is embedded within the UNDP Electoral Support Project, working on Output 2, related to the improved quality and sustainability of the voter registration.

Meanwhile, the preliminary voter roll exhibition, which allows registered voters to correct their data, started on 28 October and will run until the end of the month.

To enhance public awareness of the exercise, the UNDP Electoral Support Project printed NEC civic and voter education materials, including those specific to gender and persons with disabilities.

UNDP supports NEC in training media to ensure inclusive participation and a level playing field

Throughout the month of October, UNDP further supported NEC in conducting briefings for media practitioners on electoral campaigns. Two briefings took place in regional hubs – Buchanan (20-21 October) and Ganta (22-23 October) – featuring more than 100 participants from across the country. The briefing aimed at enhancing media knowledge of election campaign procedures, supporting neutral reporting, and working toward creating equitable conditions for female candidates in the media space. In addition, with support from UNDP, NEC launched a workshop for media and persons living with disabilities in an effort to close the gap in inclusive participation.

Rehabilitation of NEC magisterial warehouses completed

On 8 October 2020, UNDP handed over the renovated magisterial facility in Cestos – the last of 12 warehouses, fences, and generator rooms rehabilitated – to the NEC. The liability period for all 12 sites is ongoing and will be completed in January and February 2020. Meanwhile, UNDP signed a contract to rehabilitate two security booths at the NEC headquarters to ensure sufficient security of NEC staff during the upcoming electoral and post-electoral period.