



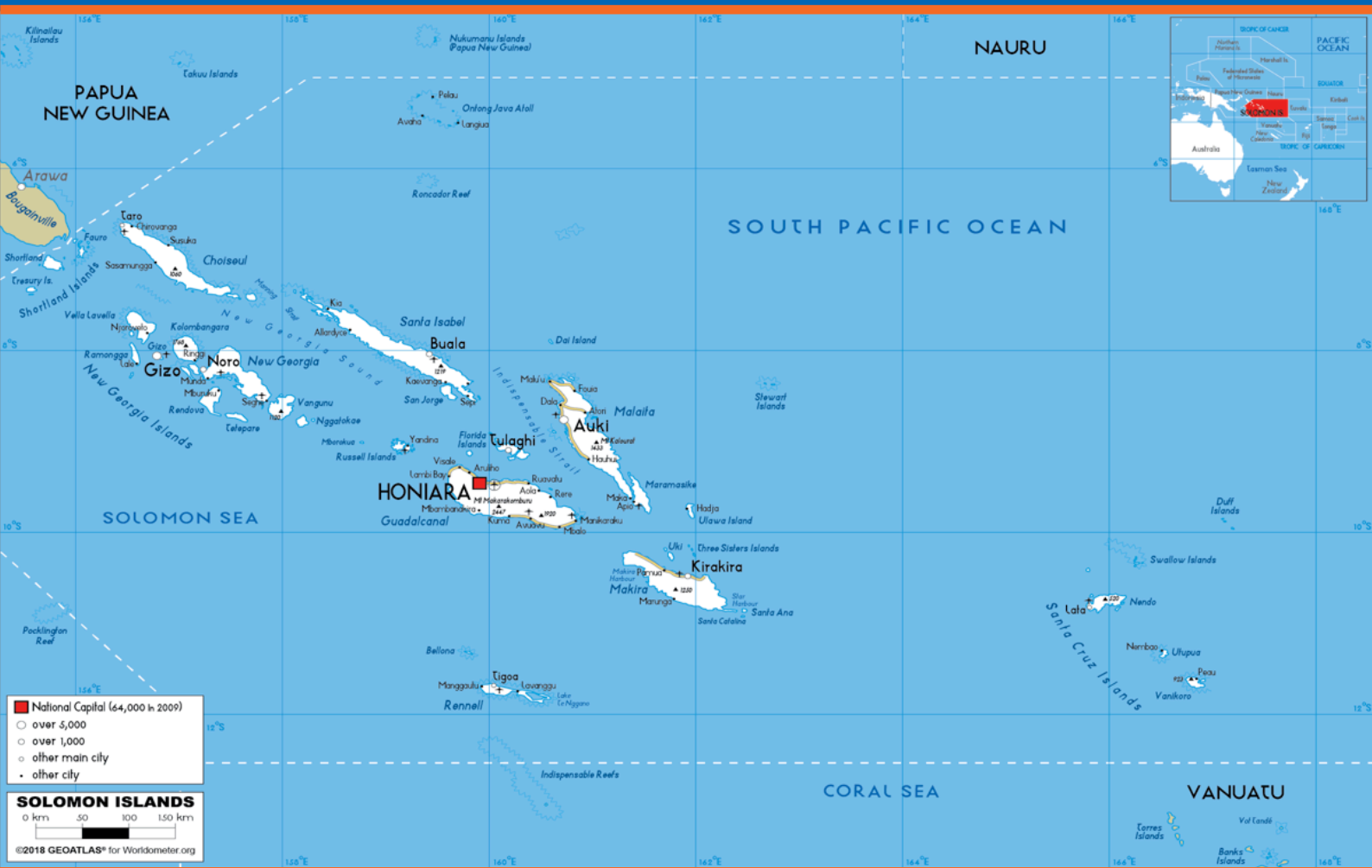
STRENGTHENING THE ELECTORAL CYCLE IN THE SOLOMON ISLANDS PROJECT



Final Report for
the European Union

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PROJECT INFORMATION

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Implementing Partner: Solomon Islands Electoral Commission (SIEC)

Chief Technical Advisor: Rudolf Elbling (July 2013 – June 2015)
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List of Acronyms

AEC	Australian Electoral Commission
AWP	Annual Work Plan
BRIDGE	Building Resources in Democracy, Governance and Elections
BVR	Biometric Voter Registration
CEO	Chief Electoral Officer
CSO	Civil Society Organisation
CTA	Chief Technical Advisor
DSE	Development Service Exchange
EMB	Electoral Management Body
ERTF	Electoral Reform Task Force
EO	Electoral Office
ESI	Electoral Services International
EU	European Union
ESSP	Elections Support System Programme
FAQs	Frequently Asked Questions
FPTP	First-Past-the-Post
FIFA	International Federation of Football Association
IC	Individual Contract
ICPS	International Centre for Parliamentary Studies
ICTSU	Information and Communication Technology Support Unit
ISP	Internet Service Provider
IT	Information Technology
IMEOC	Inter-Ministerial Electoral Operations Committee
IUNV	International United Nations Volunteer
LPV	Limited Preferential Voting
MASI	Media Association of Solomon Islands
MEHRD	Ministry of Education and Human Resources Development
MOHA	Ministry of Home Affairs
MOU	Memorandum of Understanding
MP	Member of Parliament
MPGIS	Ministry of Provincial Government and Institutional Strengthening
MWYCFA	Ministry of Women, Youth, Children and Family Affairs
NAM	Needs Assessment Mission

NPEPA	National Parliament Electoral Provisions Act
NVAS	National Voter Awareness Strategy
NGE	National General Election
OA	Operations Adviser
OPM	Office of the Prime Minister
ORPP	Office of the Registrar of the Political Parties
OW	Outstanding Women
PAE	Provincial Assembly Elections
PBM	Project Management Board
PPC	Political Parties Commission
PPIA	Political Party Integrity Act
PSU	Procurement Service Unit
PWD	Association of Persons with Disabilities
RSIPF	Royal Solomon Islands Police Force
RO	Registration Officer
SECSIP	Strengthening the Electoral Cycle in the Solomon Islands
SIALC	Solomon Islands Association of Learning Centres
SIBC	Solomon Islands Broadcasting Corporation
SIDS	Small Islands Developing States
SIG	Solomon Island Government
SIEC	Solomon Islands Electoral Commission
SINU	Solomon Islands National University
SISAC	Solomon Islands Social Accountability Coalition
SMS	Short Message Service
TOT	Training of Trainers
TSM	Temporary Special Measures
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UN NAM	United Nations Needs Assessment Mission
USP	The University of the South Pacific
WPL	Women Participation and Leadership
WSN	Women Support Network

A Project background

Strengthening the Electoral Cycle in the Solomon Islands (SECSIP) was launched in July 2013 to provide assistance and enhance the capacities of the national authorities to manage an electoral cycle. SECSIP has been funded through a multi-donor basket instrument receiving financial assistance from the European Union (EU), Australia and UNDP.

During the period July 2013 to December 2019, SECSIP has supported the national authorities of Solomon Islands in the organisation of two national general elections (2014 and 2019), the by-elections held for Gizo-Kolombangara constituency in May 2018 and the by-election of East Makira constituency on 11 December 2019 simultaneously held for the first time ever with the elections for the Makira Provincial Assembly.

The project design and the scope of the action was based on a first UN Needs Assessment Mission (NAM) deployed in late 2012 in response to the request of Solomon Islands authorities to receive UN electoral assistance. Through the project period of implementation, two other UN NAMs (September 2015¹ and on October/November 2019) were deployed to evaluate the electoral environment and support needs in response to the follow up requests of the Solomon Islands authorities to continue receiving UN electoral assistance.

Acknowledging the achievements of the Electoral Office (EO) and the contribution made by the UNDP electoral support project, the 2015 UN NAM recommended the continuity of the assistance to support the following national general election which was expected to be held within the period December 2018-April 2019 as well as the post-election activities to build and consolidate results for the enhancement of Solomon Islands electoral capacities. In

response to the letter of request to the UN dated 6 September 2019 from the SIEC to continue receiving electoral assistance throughout the next electoral cycle, a third UN NAM was deployed from 29 October to 3 November 2019. The 2019 NAM revised the parameters of assistance recommending the continuity of UN assistance until December 2023.

The above resulted in changes and adjustments in the project implementation reflected in the amendment of the EU Contribution Agreement (EU Contribution Agreement FED/2013/328-922) according to which the implementation of the action commenced on 1 July 2013 and ended on 31 December 2019².

¹ Initial envisaged duration of the Action as per FED/2013/328/922 was 41 months with expiry date on 30 November 2016. The duration was extended to enable the Solomon Islands electoral authorities to receive the continued support of the EU through UNDP SECSIP in the lead up to the 2019 national general elections as well as for the 2019 post-election phase. The agreement was amended on 3 occasions:

- A first extension in alignment with the recommendation of 2015 NAM to continue providing support in the lead up to the next national general election amended the Contribution Agreement bringing its expiration date to 27 December 2018.
- A second extension in November 2018 resulted in the extension to 27 August 2019 with a view to ensure support to the national general election expected to be held in the first quarter of 2019.
- A third amendment extended the agreement to 31 December 2019 (78 months).

² Pursuant to SECSIP Project Document endorsed by Solomon Islands authorities, the project implementation period is to be completed on 30 June 2020. To this end, financial resources from the Government of Australia and UNDP have been mobilized to enable project operations during this final stage.

B Summary of the context of the action

Solomon Islands is a country of more than 900 islands. The local political behaviour is heavily influenced by the predominance of the *wantok* system. This has resulted in fairly weak political identities and no deep feelings of national identity. The political party scene in the Solomon Islands remains weak with political parties having limited influence over its members. MPs are elected in single member constituencies through a First-Past-the-Post (FPTP) electoral system. This system frequently results in a high number of 'wasted' votes with sometimes a high number of candidates running for the same constituency and very few seats won with an absolute majority. The 2019 national general elections have, however, yielded more members belonging to political parties than in 2014 (58% in 2019 whereas in the previous election Members of Parliament representing a political party amounted to 36%).

Solomon Islands has a geographically dispersed and ethnically diverse population with many challenging aspects for the efficient reaching out to enfranchise eligible citizens. Engagement of civil society groups is not always possible as the civil society landscape across the country is weak and not well coordinated, and in some areas, there are no active civil society groups besides those connected with religious/faith groups.

Women continue to face significant barriers (financial and sociological) which impact on their participation in the political arena and their effective political representation. In 2019 elections, out of a total number of 331 candidates, 26 were women (7.8%) experiencing an increase in relative terms of 2.57% with respect to 2014 national general election.

The Solomon Islands has gone through some critical testing periods, in part due to conflict that emerged from 1998-2003. In 2003 a mandate was unanimously approved by the Solomon Islands National Parliament for the deployment of a Regional Assistance Mission for the Solomon Islands (RAMSI) to help restore law and order, strengthen government institutions, reduce corruption and reinvigorate the economy.

RAMSI provided bi-lateral electoral assistance to Solomon Islands Government (SIG) to deliver successful elections (2006 and 2010).

In line with this background and in response to the request of the Solomon Islands authorities, a UNDP electoral project commenced to be formulated in late 2012. The project (Strengthening the Electoral Cycle in the Solomon Islands, SECSIP) was launched in July 2013 with a view to solidify gains and support the preparation of the national general elections through a multilateral action focusing on the capacity-building of the national electoral authorities.

With respect to the legal framework, at the time of commencement of SECSIP, the Solomon Islands Constitution and the National Parliament Electoral Provisions Act 2010 (NPEPA) provided the legislative framework for the parliamentary elections. In 2014, the Solomon Islands National Parliament passed the Political Parties Integrity Act with a view to enhance the stability of the political party scene. A new Electoral Act (EA) entered into force on 25 September 2018 strengthening the EMB with provisions on the composition of this collective body as well as on the Electoral Office as its executive branch led by a Chief Electoral Officer (CEO) who is also a non-voting member of the Electoral Commission.

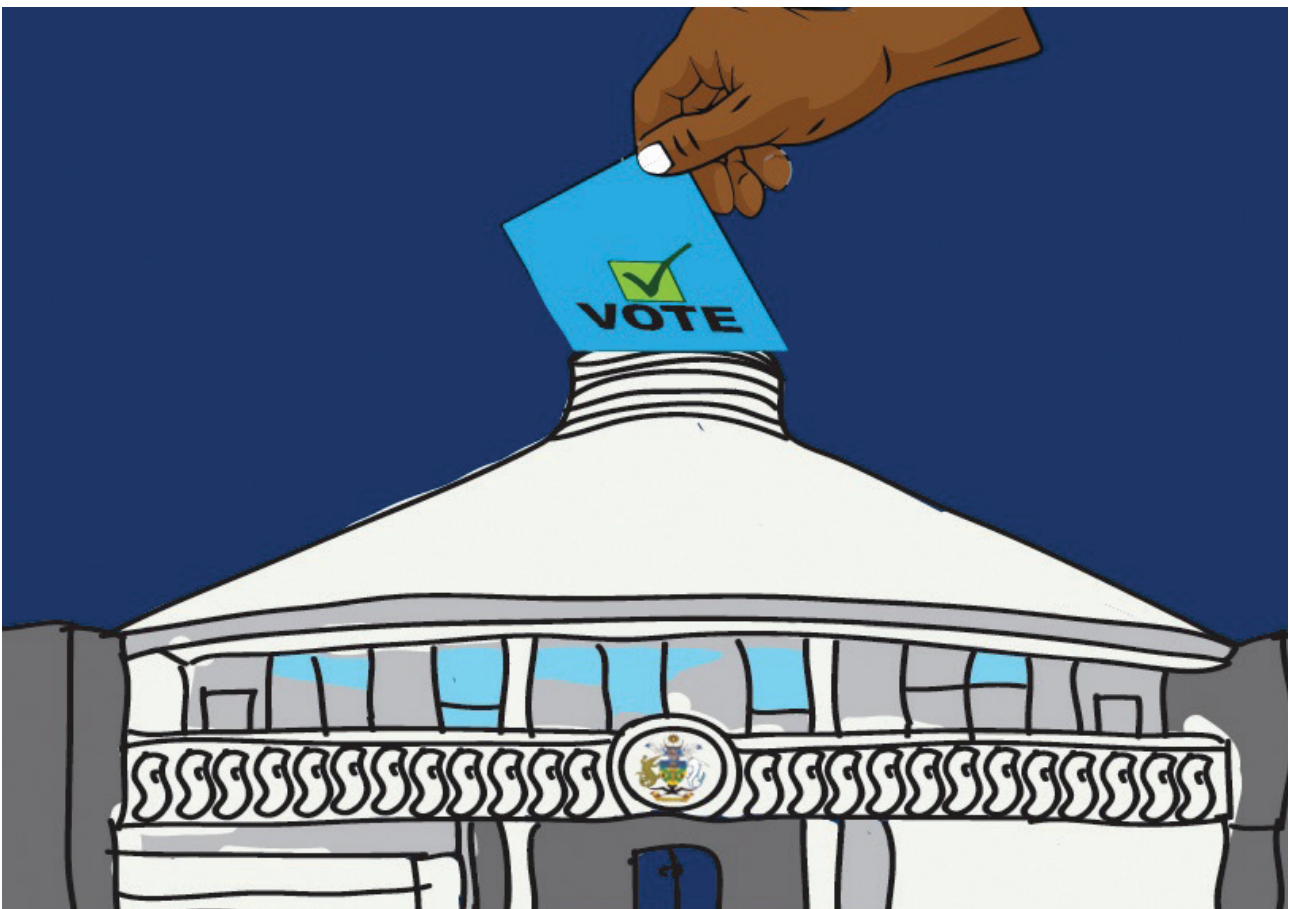
Despite the enhancement of capacities and successful management of national parliamentary elections, the Solomon Islands electoral administration continues to face a number of constraints derived from limited resources (human, technical and financial) that impact on the efficient implementation of the electoral mandate in accordance with the law. Of particular note is the support needed with respect to design and implementation for voter registration, voter awareness and electoral campaigning.

In this environment the Electoral Office, has successfully carried out the operational planning and implementation of the voter registration, by-elections and two national general elections (2014 and 2019).

Against this background, the overarching goal of the project has been to enhance the capacities of the electoral national authorities as well as to engage civil society organisations (CSOs) in connection with voter education, electoral reform and women political participation and leadership.

The project has been directly implemented by UNDP in close partnership and collaboration with its main beneficiary, the Electoral Office and the Ministry of Home Affairs. As a result of a revision endorsed by the Project Board in April 2016, the Project also implemented some activities with the ORPP/PPC. The action was coordinated by the Chief Technical Adviser (CTA) in close consultation with the Chief Electoral Officer (CEO) and with support of UNDP Project Management Unit and oversight of the Solomon Islands Sub-Office.

The Project Board (Steering Committee) is headed by the Chair of the Solomon Islands Electoral Commission and brings together all the main government officials related to elections and the main donors (EU, Australia and UNDP) having overall authority for the direction, review and eventual closure of the project.





Activities conducted during project implementation

1. Sustainable voter registration system created to strengthen the inclusiveness and integrity of the electoral cycle

- Complete the preparations for the implementation of a new voter registration (VR) system and its implementation for the creation of a new register of voters
- Enhancement of Biometric Voter registration (BVR) sustainability, IT related skills and voter registration technology
- Enhancement of the inclusiveness of the VR system
- Support south to south cooperation with other Electoral Management Bodies

New register of voters. To support the Solomon Islands 2014 decision on the introduction of a biometric voter registration system, and to create a new register of voters, SECSIP provided the following electoral core assistance:

- ▶ **Voter Registration Planning.** Technical assistance provided by Chief Technical Adviser Rudolf Elbling and Information Technology/Biometric Voter registration expert Mohammed Ali (IC Nov 2013-June 2014) was instrumental for the development of a comprehensive voter registration plan. The contribution of Mr. Ali was essential to the initial introduction, planning and implementation of the first biometric voter registration in 2014 with particular input for the cleaning of data and implementation of corrections.
- ▶ **Trainings.** Training expert Ross Atrill, was engaged to design and implement a training plan for voter registration staff. With a view to have an integrated approach across the project components, the training expert worked closely with the EO senior management, the BVR vendor and SECSIP team (CTA and IT Voter Registration expert Mr. Ali) and bilateral advisers to assisted the Electoral Office in the facilitation of trainings of electoral voter registration officials³ and the communication strategy⁴.

Sustainability and inclusiveness. Upon the successful creation of a new voter's roll with BVR

technology, a critical contribution to the credibility of the 2014 elections, the focus of the project support under activity 1 was to analyze and provide technical assistance towards its sustainability and inclusiveness. Some of the activities supported by the project included:

- ▶ **BVR Review.** A review of the new electoral roll data was delivered by BVR expert Ronan McDermott (May-June 2015).
- ▶ **BVR Sustainability.** Based on the findings of the 2015 review, SECSIP sought to provide advice to the SIEC and the SIG on the enhancement of data security and strategical aspects in connection with access, updating and upgrading, protection mechanisms of BVR data and future sustainability. In 2017 SECSIP engaged BVR Expert Chahine Hamila, who met with SIG authorities (inclusive of MOHA and civil registry) and conducted an assessment which resulted in an Options paper with recommendations on the enhancement and sustainability of the Biometric Voter Registration. The plan made provided recommendations to enhance software, hardware and for the development of a national team with the required IT/BVR technical skills.
- ▶ **Voter Registration Monitoring.** With respect to the 2018-2019 national voter registration update, SECSIP approached OXFAM which in collaboration with SISAC conducted the technical monitoring of the national update of the voter's roll.

³ A training cascade (train the trainer) plan for VR officials was designed by expert Ross Atrill and implemented. This training methodology was followed both for 2014 registration and for the national update conducted in 2018-2019.

⁴ SECSIP support to EO was instrumental to produce and implement an awareness strategy which addressed the communication aspects related to voter registration. The referred strategy covered the period 2016-2019 endorsed by the SIEC in March 2016. Accordingly, awareness actions prioritized the engagement of youth through secondary school actions, TV commercials broadcasted during the FIFA championship (supported under activity 3 to enhance the ability voter education abilities). Additionally, within the support provided to the Electoral Reform Task Force (activity 4) the project assisted in the introduction in the 2018 EA of the voter registration of SI citizens of 17 year of age and the possibility of continuous registration.

Technology and IT skills. Activities that contributed to the building the EMB capacity in terms of technology and IT related skills included:

- ▶ **Equipment.** SECSIP contributed to enhance the sustainability of the voter registration system through the acquisition of equipment. The project expertise jointly with the Electoral Office, identified and prepared specifications and conducted the procurement of IT hardware and supporting equipment necessary for conduct of voter registration actions (spare parts for BVR kits, batteries, computers, printers and portable generators).
- ▶ **Development of Technical Skills.** Support to the enhancement of IT related skills voter registration technology, included, at the request of the EO senior management, the engagement of the former EO IT official David Ramosae (October 2017 to March 2018). The rationale was that upon departure of Ramosae, the EO had no other official with the necessary skills and knowledge of the BVR system. This was envisaged as a temporary measure to enhance IT related skills and to contribute to the transfer knowledge to other EO officials.
- ▶ **South to South.** Promoting enhancement of capacities through south to south collaboration amongst EMBs, three international BVR experts working with the Nepal EMB, were hired during the period December 2017- April 2018. These experts supported the 2017 partial update with particular focus on the training of data entry officers, the cleaning and removing duplication of data and the preparation of checklists to guide the implementation of corrections to the VR. Two of these experts were deployed to Choiseul and Western Province for trouble shooting and enhancement of capacities of provincial registration staff. The third expert remained in Honiara at the Electoral Office HQ data centre for the consolidation of data and preparation of voters lists. It is noted that activities 1 and 2 are closely interlinked under the capacity to manage electoral operations. Accordingly, other capacity building/training actions and south to south initiatives implemented under activity 2 also contributed to transfer knowledge and Enhancement of technical skills under activity 1.

Support actions initiated but not completed include:

Continuous voter registration. Pursuant to the National Parliament Electoral Provisions Act, the law required an annual periodicity for the update of the voter's rolls. During the reporting period, the new roll was created in 2014, partially updated for the provinces of Choiseul and Western Province in 2017 and updated at national level in 2018 for the 2019 NGE. It

is noted that the 2018 Electoral Act (EA) enables the continuous update of the voter registry. In late 2019, a paper was prepared by the Electoral Office providing a costed analysis for the introduction of continuous registration. This paper has been discussed with members of Parliament in April 2020.

2. Capacity of the SIEC increased and more efficient and effective administrative procedures designed and implemented for the SIEC to fulfill its mandate

- **Enhance the capacity of the SIEC and the Electoral Office to manage an electoral cycle**
- **Improve infrastructure for more efficient electoral management**
- **Strengthen SIEC's operational planning, communication and coordination capacity**

Human resources. With a view to enhance the capacity of the SIEC and Electoral Office to manage an electoral cycle, the project support included the following activities:

- ▶ **Training.** Engagement of Mr. Ross Atrill with expertise on training and human resources to identify capacity gaps, support human resources planning of the EO and mentoring of the EO Training Officer, Ms. Madlyn Lagusu.
- ▶ **Capacity Assessment.** A comprehensive capacity assessment of electoral authorities was conducted in July-August 2016 by Senior Electoral Expert Carlos Valenzuela. The assessment involved a detailed review of key legislation and instruments including the Corporate Plan, electoral office procedures and manuals. This resulted in a report which incorporated alternative scenarios and recommendations for the strengthening of the electoral authorities. The findings and recommendations were presented to H.E Prime Minister Sogavare in October 2016.
- ▶ **Training Needs.** Building on the gaps identified in the 2016 assessment conducted, Mr. Valenzuela was engaged for the identification of basic training needs and the development of a pilot training for potential electoral staff. The expert delivered a foundation course with a holistic approach which identified in key electoral contents to be structured in modules to allow flexibility depending on the background and experience of the participants (August 2017).

SECSIP provided continuous support to trainings and workshops for temporary voter registration and polling staff particularly in the lead up to the 2014 and 2019

national general elections (Capacity development actions organised for electoral staff are summarized in Table 7). Training for casual staff conducted by the Electoral Office with SECSIP support prior to the 2014 and 2019 NGE included team building exercises to enhance professional relationships. To this end, during the workshops organized by SECSIP or supported by the Project included ice-breaking exercises and often tea-breaks lunch to facilitate interaction and team-building spirit.

▶ **High-Level Training Opportunities.** SECSIP identified and organised the participation of senior electoral officers in the following actions:

a. Professional Certificate courses on Management of Electoral Processes, in Strategic Reform of Electoral Processes and in Development and Technology facilitated by the International Centre for Parliamentary Studies (ICPS) in UK London. These 3 ICPS trainings were respectively attended by Acting Chief Electoral Officer Alphonsus Pero (May 2016), Electoral Office Head of Operations Fredrick Bosoboe (Nov 2016) and IT Senior Officer David Ramosae (March 2017).

b. In line with the prioritization of women's participation in high level trainings and capacity building activities, SECSIP arranged and funded the participation of Electoral Commissioner Ms. Taeasi Sanga and the Senior Voter Awareness and Media Manager Ms. Philothea Paul in the November 2016 Global Elections Organisation (GEO-7) Conference held in Washington D.C. The GEO is a high-level event participated by Senior EMB and Government representatives. The 2016 edition included sessions on transparency related issues in connection to voter registers and announcement of electoral results.

c. The former Training Officer and Women Focal Point, Ms. Madlyn Lagusu participated in a Study Tour to Samoa. SECSIP CTA contacted Samoa EMB Senior Management to plan and agree on the contents of this study tour conducted during the Samoa 2016 election.

▶ **Graduate Programme** (June 2018–December 2019). SECSIP prepared a Memorandum of Understanding which was signed in June 2018 by representatives of the Office of the Prime Minister, Ministry of Home Affairs, the SIEC and PPC. The graduate programme was launched as a mechanism to assist core electoral capacities in the lead up to the 2019 elections. Through SECSIP Graduate Programme,

the Project contributed to the strengthening of the EO structure in the areas of logistics, field coordination, human resources and voter awareness contributed to the setting of practices for the archiving of key documents. The engagement of a Data Management expert was instrumental to archive results data, to make comparative analysis with the previous 2014 NGE contributing to the building of the institutional memory. Enhancement of archiving is still on-going and has been identified as part of the project exit strategy.

▶ **Assistance to Recruitment Processes.** SECSIP engaged a national advisor with human resources expertise to support the recruitment of electoral officials (ROs, polling officials, electoral managers) in 2018-2019.

Complaint procedures. SECSIP technical advice related to complaint procedures the project support included:

▶ Technical advice for the revision of the objection forms to the inclusion in the voter lists. SECSIP redesigned these forms to provide details on the grounds for the objection and an indicative list of the evidence which could be submitted in support of the objection.

▶ Technical advice and forms for administrative complaints. SECSIP with the bilateral advisers supported the review of the templates for the filing of voting and counting complaints

▶ SECSIP was instrumental for the production of 2014 training manuals and the 2018/2019 review which was jointly conducted with bilateral advisers.

▶ Additionally, as referred under activity 4, SECSIP provided technical advice to the Electoral Reform Task Force contributing to the identification of issues for the drafting of provisions related to complaint procedures.

Electoral materials. To improve and support a more efficient electoral management in terms of procurement of electoral materials and to ensure the best value for money, SECSIP procured through the services of UNDP Procurement Support Unit (PSU) located in Copenhagen electoral materials⁵.

⁵ SECSIP procurement included ballot boxes and lids, voting booths (carboard made), bottles indelible ink and polling kits.

Infrastructure. SECSIP contributed to expand the use of Vavaya Ridge compound in Honiara and to reduce the financial burden of the EO caused by lease payments. Infrastructure enhancements for a more efficient electoral management included:

- ▶ In 2015 SIEC work to upgrade the Electoral Office involved the refurbishment of the EO meeting room furniture with a conference table and chairs, a flat screen TV, a supply cabinet and bookcase, with a projector and screen. Additional basic work was done to repair walls, remove built-in cabinets, industrial cleaning and painting. Payments were released upon inspection by the Ministry of Infrastructure and Development (MID).
- ▶ Procurement of storage facilities (acquisition of 2 shipping containers for storing of non-sensitive materials in 2016).
- ▶ Other support to infrastructure included the services of an ISP provider which enabled the Electoral Office to have a bandwidth capable of providing network services such as e-mail, browsing, video-conferencing, Facebook and access to other internet based services including the institutional website in a reliable and steady fashion (since August 2016).
- ▶ Options for a more conducive working environment. At the request of EO senior management and Ministry of Infrastructure, two options were to be considered to provide a more cost effective, secure and conducive environment of the Electoral Office premises. These were the construction of a second floor above the current building structure or the demolition and construction of a new building. As these options involved major construction, it was considered advisable to first conduct preparatory work to identify the needs and steps to be undertaken particularly for the development of a set of architectural related bidding documents necessary for the hiring of an architect or an architectural firm for the full renovation of the Electoral Office. To this end a consultant was engaged to develop a construction briefing. This major construction was dependent on government cost-sharing and the project did not proceed since such commitment was not provided.

The project, in line with SECSIP 2017 Project Document, prior to the 2019 NGE only infrastructure building enhancements in support of activities that had a direct bearing on the implementation of the 2019 NGE were prioritized. The 2018 construction of a data-centre provided a cost-efficient approach and enhanced the efficiency of the voter registration operations. The accessibility to the

EO compound was also enhanced prior to the 2019 NGE with the construction of guard house, installation of a boom gate and enhancement of the parking area. In the post-election period, with SECSIP support, additional offices and reception areas were constructed (human resources and finance) and the HR and Finance section, guard house, reception room for visitors, toilets. A technical inspection of the new constructed areas was conducted by the Ministry of Infrastructure prior to the disbursement of the payments by UNDP.

- ▶ To enhance transport and logistics of the EO, requested SECSIP support for the acquisition of a mini-bus vehicle. After discussion with national and international partners and endorsement of the Project Board, the purchase of this vehicle was covered with UNDP funding.

Electoral fora. Significant contributions in terms of provision of fora to discuss electoral issues included:

- ▶ In addition to the monthly donor coordination meetings organised by the UNDP Country Office, SECSIP ensured the presence of the CEO in these and other fora. The project organised project board discussions attended by senior Government officials and international development partners, round table discussions and technical advisory committee meetings as well as bilateral discussions. The project also facilitated a number of the Electoral Reform Task Force meetings to discuss on the advancement of the electoral legal framework and supported the logistics and funding of the electoral reform provincial tour consultations.
- ▶ Support the setting of a taskforce to coordinate the implementation of 2014 election. An Inter-Ministerial Electoral Operations Committee (IMEOC) was established in 2014 prior to the NGE as a national task force to coordinate the preparation and implementation of electoral events. To reactivate this body in the lead up to the 2019 NGE and building on the 2014 experience, the EO developed in 2018 a Charter on the scope of this body (see narrative under result 2.3).

Operational planning and communication. Support for the development of institutional tools contributing to enhance planning and communication:

- ▶ SECSIP IT expert Mohammed Ali contributed to the design of the 2014 operational planning and had a significant contribution with respect to the results management system utilized during the 2014 NGE.

- ▶ SECSIP identified a local firm to facilitate the design and launching of the institutional electoral office website prior to the 2014 NGE⁶.
 - ▶ A one-week BRIDGE training focusing on electoral operations procedures organized by SECSIP and the AEC was facilitated in May 2017
 - ▶ The engagement of an Electoral Operations Adviser (June 2018 – May 2019) provided critical support to the operational planning review and update of procedures for the implementation of the 2019 NGE. The technical advice of this expert was instrumental to support the EO Head of Operations in the development of a detailed operational plan identifying human and technical needs and establishing a field coordination mechanism. SECSIP expertise contributed to the review of manuals with the new procedures prior to the 2019 NGE.
 - ▶ In the lead up to the 2019 NGE with a view to enhance coordination and reporting from the EO casual employees to EO HQ, SECSIP Graduate Programme included the engagement of 2 dedicated Field Coordination assistants who periodically gathered information from the casual staff working in the field, prepared the reports and submitted them to the EO Head of Operations and Senior Advisers. Given the positive impact of this measure and the quality of the work of the graduates, the EO proceeded to engage one of the SECSIP Field Coordination graduates who currently is the incumbent of the EO Deputy Director Operations post.
 - ▶ For the 2019 NGE, SECSIP engaged a Data Management Expert who developed counting and results forms for the 2019 NGE. The expert also produced an analysis of the data and results with comparisons between the 2014 and 2019 NGE.
 - ▶ To assist with data management and result analysis, SECSIP engaged an International Data Management Expert to provide technical advice on data management for the 2019 NGE. The expert provided a comparative analysis on the data and results for 2014 and 2019 NGE as a tool contributing to the building of the institutional memory.
 - ▶ With respect to lessons learned, during 2015, following the NGE 2014, three lessons learned exercises/workshops were held in Auki (covering Malaita and Central Province), Honiara (for Guadalcanal, Isabel, Makira, Renbel, Temotu and Honiara constituencies) and Gizo (covering Western Province and Choiseul).
 - ▶ After 2019 NGE, three lessons learned workshops (held in April 2019 in Auki, Honiara and Gizo) were conducted to identify good practices, areas for improvement /challenges and the way forward for future electoral activities. The post-election lessons learned exercises reviewed the implemented procedures and provided valuable feedback to continue building operational capacities.
 - ▶ An assessment of UNDP support to the elections was conducted in May 2019 by UNDP Regional Electoral Adviser Simon Finley to review the major lessons that can be extracted from UNDP's support and to identify strategic areas that could benefit from further assistance.
- Support actions initiated but not completed include**
- Performance assessment.** SECSIP, in collaboration with the ESSP advisers, liaised with the Ministry of Public Services with respect to the implementation of staff appraisal methodology. This included presentations by a representative of the Ministry of Public Service during the workshop organized for the discussion of the corporate plan (February 2017). This issue has been included in the Corporate Plan 2019-2023. However, a coherent and consistent implementation will depend on the filling of an established position vacancy for the Human Resources Unit.
- Constituency boundary and mapping technology (GPS).** The revision of constituency boundaries is under the mandate of Constituency Boundary Commission (CBC). While the Electoral Reform Task Force considered the issue of the possible revision of the constituency boundaries, the CBC was not reactivated by the SIG authorities during the reporting period.
- Acquisition of GPS units/mapping technology.** The Project organised a study tour to Nepal in 2017 with a programme which included the assessment of the Nepal EMB use of GPS units. This was followed by a comprehensive Options Paper on IT and BVR related support making recommendations for equipment needs which led to prioritize funds for the procurement of servers and supporting BVR equipment (under activity 1) as a priority need instead of GPS technology. On a related note, in the lead up to the 2019 NGE, SECSIP upgraded the institutional website to include a search engine enabling citizens to locate their polling stations.

⁶ An upgrade of the SIEC website was also conducted in 2018 under activity 3 to enhance communication needs in the lead up to the 2019 NGE.

Permanent presence at provincial level. The 2018 EA provides for the expansion of the mandate of the EO to include provincial elections⁷. This responsibility was assumed by the EO in November 2019. SECSIP Consultant on Human Resources supported the assessment conducted by the Ministry of Public Services on staffing needs. At the date of writing this report, the EO plans to establish 3 provincial electoral offices in 2021 (Guadalcanal, Malaita and Western Province) and in 2022 to open branches in the remaining provinces⁸.

3. National Authorities and Civil Society Organizations have better capacity to conduct voter awareness and civic education:

- Enhancement of the strategic ability of the SIEC and PPC to conduct civic and voter education
- Enhancement of the capacity of CSOs to provide voter education and coordinate with the SIEC
- Increase implementation of civic and voter activities

Technical advice/expertise. To enhance the capacity of the electoral authorities to conduct civic and voter education, SECSIP included engagement of technical expertise and production of a range of voter education materials.

- ▶ On four occasions throughout the period 2013-2017, the project engaged international expert Benjamin McNair to support the Electoral Office to develop a holistic strategy for the period 2016-2019 (endorsed by SIEC in March 2016) and to implement Voter Education and Communication actions.
- ▶ A paper for the introduction of democracy related issues in the school curricula (2016) was produced with the support of McNair's technical advice and presented to the Ministry of Education. While well received, it was noted that practical implementation would be dependent on willingness of teachers with very limited means. This provided the basis to explore other avenues for the launching of joint actions with the MEHRD. An activity particularly well received was the 'school election project' (2017-2018) to raise awareness on democracy and elections which included mock elections sessions with secondary school students⁹ led by the EO Senior Media and Communications Officer Philothea Paul with SECSIP support. This activity which included presentations and debates on democracy related issues was implemented in ten schools, located in Honiara city, and in Guadalcanal, Renbell and Malaita provinces.

- ▶ In the lead up to the 2018-2019 NGE, international expert Philippa Neave was engaged to support the demands of the pre-election period and continue building on previous achievements. The advice of the expert was instrumental to develop new products and establish innovative dissemination strategies through the collaboration with the private sector (SolRice).
- ▶ Where possible, the project prioritized the engagement of national service providers, for example, engaged a graphic designer Millicent Barty, national media expert Ednal Palmer, national voter awareness/civic engagement consultant Lily Chekana.

Products. The range of voter awareness materials produced with SECSIP support included posters, fact-sheets, frequently asked questions, pull-up banners, sticker wrist bands, telephone hotline, SMS messaging, radio talk back shows (see section I. EU visibility, point 8.d.) To enhance internal production of basic awareness materials and communications, SECSIP also conducted direct procurement of equipment (i.e. sound equipment, voice recorder, cameras, printers).

Distribution. SECSIP made a significant contribution to distribute voter awareness materials through CSOs, media outlets, private company networks, religious groups both in 2014 registration and during 2018-2019 national update (see tables 13 & 14; pages 44 & 45).

Partnerships and civil society engagement¹⁰.

- ▶ A nation-wide consultation plan on the electoral reform was developed by the Electoral Reform Task Force (see activity 4). As a tool to support of awareness raising on the issues presented, a video was filmed during the consultations held for the Guadalcanal province (May 2017).
- ▶ SECSIP initial Small Grants Programme was launched in 2016. In early 2018 SECSIP conducted a mapping exercise prioritizing CSOs with local presence in key constituencies to conduct face to face awareness activities and disseminate voter awareness

⁷ Previously under the mandate of MPGIS. The EO assumed the responsibility for the conduct of provincial elections on 1st November 2019.

⁸ Central, Isabel, Makira, Choiseul, Temotu (given the size of the electorate, the EO estimates that an Office in Renbell will not be necessary).

⁹ Another initiative implemented with education authorities was the school poster and essay competitions held twice (2016 and in 2017-2018) which while focusing on women's leadership and political participation also contributed to build knowledge on democracy related issues.

¹⁰ These 2 entities were identified by project partners in addition to those already established under activity 2 to enhance and expand the capacity of the EMB in the implementation of voter awareness activities. In total fifteen CSOs engaged by SECSIP received information and trainings on voter education aspects facilitated by the Electoral Office and SECSIP. This contributed to coordinate the voter awareness actions enhancing the coherence and consistency of these activities.

materials. These partnerships led to implementation of face to face activities in 29 constituencies of the 9 provinces. Efforts were made to enhance inclusiveness particularly of women, youth and PLWD as reflected under Result 3 narrative¹¹.

- ▶ SECSIP facilitated the signature of a Memorandum of Understanding (2017) with the Media Association of Solomon Islands (MASI) to establish a framework for collaboration on formative actions pertaining to elections and democracy.
- ▶ To collaborate on awareness raising activities in preparation for the 2019 NGE, grants were established with MASI and with Transparency Solomon Islands (TSI).
- ▶ Particular emphasis was put on the engagement of youth. This aspect was taken into consideration in the contents and design of awareness materials. For example, TV commercials to encourage voter registration featured young people explaining the reasons why it was important to be registered. Additionally, SECSIP collaborated with Pacific Youth Forum on Anti-Corruption for Solomon Islands (PYFACSI) to disseminate civic and voter education materials through their networks. The Project also collaborated in the production of 3 videos which were broadcasted by the TV Telekom as well as disseminated through PYFACSI youth members utilizing non-internet tools such as *shareit*.
- ▶ With a view to update and display key electoral information, an update of the institutional website was conducted in the lead up to the 2019 NGE providing a more user friendly awareness tool. To enhance internal capacity a training was facilitated by the website developers which was attended by EO senior staff and advisors (ESSP and SECSIP) (Nov. 2017). The training introduced participants to the new features of the redeveloped SIEC website and providing explanations on the topics covered in the website user manual. The agreement with this firm included provision of technical support to the EO for the management of the website in the lead up to the 2019 NGE. The website and the use of social media platforms such as Facebook are important communication vehicles to engage young population and its use was intensified in the lead up to the 2019 NGE.

Monitoring and evaluation activities. The evaluation on the project implementation for the period 2013-2017 identified the need to strengthen the monitoring of project activities.

- ▶ With a view to conduct a transparent exercise and obtain valuable feedback, SECSIP approached OXFAM and SISAC (Solomon Islands Social Accountability Coalition) to conduct the monitoring of the 2018 voter registration. This resulted in 50 of national monitors who conducted a technical follow up of the 2018 VR activities.
- ▶ A committee comprised of the EO Senior Media and Communication Manager, UNDP Country Office personnel from Results and Resource Management and the Effective Governance team leader was established to monitor project activities with the CSOs. SECSIP engaged a national CSO Coordination Manager (2018-2019) who focused on the day to day monitoring and support of project activities with civil society.
- ▶ A number of field monitoring visits to assess impact of project voter awareness support activities were conducted by national consultant Lily Chekana (2017-2018), SECSIP M&E officer Mokther Hossain (2018-2019), SECSIP CSO Coordination Manager Florrie Alalo and UNDP Governance Assistant Natice Reveli (2018-2019).
- ▶ As part of the post elections lessons learned exercises, two studies were conducted to evaluate the effectiveness and impact of voter awareness campaigns implemented in the lead up to the 2014 and 2019 NGEs. The findings of the 2015 voter awareness survey provided baseline information which was taking into account for the development of the 2016-2019 Voter Awareness Strategy. In 2019 a Knowledge, Attitudes and Practices (KAP) survey was conducted to assess the progress made in electoral knowledge related issues.

4. Electoral and legal reform supported to contribute to stronger Electoral Commission and PPC Institutions:

- Strengthening legal capacity of the SIEC and PPC
- Improve electoral legislation submitted for approval

Support to the legal reform. SECSIP provision of technical advice on the legal reform aspects included:

- ▶ Expert Victoria Stewart Jolly (2014) analyzed the legal requirements to develop voter registration procedures for the introduction of the biometric voter registration that were consistent with the law.

¹¹ More details on provinces and communities which benefitted from CSO awareness activities sponsored by SECSIP are shown in Appendix 02, page 92

► The Solomon Islands Government established in 2015 an Electoral Reform Task Force. This body, which constituted the leading entity in the process of the preparation of drafting instructions of a new electoral, constitutional and political bills and its subsequent socialization was supported by SECSIP since its inception. SECSIP CTA and bilateral advisers (ESSP) regularly participated in the meeting sessions of the ERTF providing support on technical issues which contributed to the development and presentation of 2 White Papers to Parliament on the Electoral and Legal Reform which explored the change of voting system and the introduction of Temporary Special Measures (TSM) to promote women’s political representation¹². Other ERTF activities conducted with SECSIP support included:

- National consultations provincial tour (November 2016-May 2017). The ERTF presented alternatives for the electoral legal reform to representatives of the provincial government, civil society, youth and women groups.
- Study on Limited Preferential Voting (2017) which the ERTF considered a preferred option for replacement of the present FPTP system.
- Two 2016 National high-level Dialogues with Parliament and with the Political Party executives were held in Honiara in August 2016. Building on the above referred 2015 Regional Conference, two high level Dialogues with the Members and Parliament and with Political Party executives provided an opportunity to discuss the issues presented on the White Paper on Election Systems tabled in May 2016 which included a comparative analysis on the strengths and weaknesses of the First Past the Post system (FPTP) and described the key characteristics of other alternative systems in the Solomon Islands context. Professor Andrew Ellis was engaged by SECSIP as the leading facilitator. Senior Expert Carlos Valenzuela also contributed to the discussions which included sessions on TSM.
- Engagement of a legislative drafter (September 2017-April 2018) for the review and drafting of a new electoral bill, a bill amending the 2014 Political Parties Integrity Act and a bill on the attendant amendments to the Constitution of Solomon Islands. The expert was requested to provide alternatives to enhance women’s representation.
- Through the technical advice to the ERTF, SECSIP supported the review of the results verification and announcement procedures as included in the EA, the review/drafting of the subsidiary legislation via

regulations and forms. This involved the revision of ballot draw procedures as well as regulations developing Section 69 of the Electoral Act on the obligation of all candidates who contested the national general election to file a Statement of Accounts within 90 days from the publication of the election results.

Activities in support of the Political Parties Commission (PPC) capacities included:

- Joint organisation with the EU Delegation and the PPC and of the regional conference ‘In search for a new electoral system’ held in March 2015.
- As part of UNDP SECSIP support to the reform, the project assisted the PPC in the organisation and logistics of the Consultations held during the last two weeks of August 2016 in Honiara.
- A foundation training for political parties (September 2016 - February 2017) was organized by SECSIP. SECSIP identified and fund the engagement of Deveaux Consultants to design, develop and implement training actions for the strengthening of civic engagement of political parties and the promotion of the multi-party system. Nine¹³ out of the thirteen (13) registered political parties benefited from the final module on provincial branch capacity issues.
- SECSIP Graduate Programme included the engagement of 3 graduates who provided crucial support for the implementation of the PPC mandate in the lead up to the 2019 NGE. To this end, the PPC Registrar, Mr. Calvin Ziru formed part of the panel which resulted in the recruitment of 3 assistants working to support Legal, Training and Research PPC activities.
- Annual Pacific Regional conferences on political parties related issues held in 2016, 2017, 2018 and 2019¹⁴ which provided a forum for discussion on issues related to the consolidation of elections and democracy. During the Regional Conference ‘Inclusiveness of Political Parties’ held from 18 to 23 September 2019 in Honiara, SECSIP experts contributed to the discussion on issues related to Temporary Special Measures (TSM) and the enhancement of the participation of PWD, youth and minority groups.

¹² White Papers proposed the introduction of TSM however during the debate, the introduction of such measures was not supported the MoPs.

¹³ See table 20 on participation on foundation training for political parties

¹⁴ “Creating Political and Parliamentary Stability to Catalyze Development “Nadi, Fiji 2016; “Does the Pacific needs Political Parties”, Momi Bay, Fiji 2017; “Regional Conference: Legal and Regulatory Frameworks for Political Parties”, Port Vila, Vanuatu 2018; “Inclusiveness of Political Parties”, Honiara, Solomon Islands 2019.

Other project actions described under activity 5 provided supplementary support to the legal reform in connection with women's participation:

- ▶ The 2015 regional conference on Women's Leadership and Political Participation (June 2015);
- ▶ The support to the participation of SI 7 delegates in the Pacific Regional Conference on TSM in the Pacific, Papua New Guinea (23-24 November 2015);
- ▶ The organisation of the Regional Workshop on Women Leadership (August 2018) was attended by 60 national and international women leaders from the Pacific region including former Prime Minister of New Zealand, Ms. Helen Clark.

5. Increased participation of women in politics and decision making, and improved representation of women in Parliament

- **Strengthening of the capacity of the SIEC, national authorities and CSOs to advocate for women's leadership and participation in politics and decision making**

With a view to support the advancement of women's agenda, SECSIP had a portfolio of activities which focused on capacity building of stakeholders and activists (from the public sector and civil society), raising awareness on women's leadership and political participation and endeavour to provide avenues for the engagement of youth and communities at grass-root level to debate gender mainstreaming issues¹⁵.

Conferences/workshops.

- ▶ Three-day Regional Conference on Women's Leadership and Political Participation (Honiara, June 2015). The Conference was organized by SECSIP jointly with the Political Parties Commission, the Electoral Office, EU Delegation in Solomon Islands, UN Women and Young Women's Parliamentary Group. Regional and national experts from Honiara, Temotu, Isabel, Fiji, Vanuatu, Samoa and Papua New Guinea were in attendance.
- ▶ The EO also co-facilitated sessions on women political participation in women candidate schools, national leadership workshops held in 2018.
- ▶ A four-day National Women's Leadership Workshop was conducted in August 2018 which capitalized on the high-level visit of Ms. Helen Clark as keynote speaker. Other guests included the Speaker of National Parliament and members of Parliament from SI, Fiji and Vanuatu,

representatives of development partners from the EU, the Government of Australia and New Zealand.

- ▶ Women support network (WSN). The setting of a forum for discussion and support on women's leadership issues was identified by the participants of the 2018 National Workshop. The WSN facilitated dissemination of information and discussions on legislative changes and served as a channel to raise questions/doubts to other entities (SIEC, PPC). For example, the CEO and SECSIP expert Carlos Valenzuela provided presentations to members of women support network before the NGE 2019. The WSN remains active at present.
- ▶ SECSIP has contributed to the raising of awareness on the introduction of TSM with women and youth groups during high-level events. SECSIP Adviser in coordination with the Youth Practice Parliament organized by the UNDP Pacific Office facilitated a session on TSM and women's political participation with youth representatives (25 female, 1 PWD) from the 50 SI constituencies. SECSIP also included this topic in capacity building activities implemented with partners such as the trainings for media professionals (an average of 34 media professionals were trained on electoral issues and fair gender balanced reporting).
- ▶ Workshops on gender mainstreaming were facilitated by SECSIP advisers with participation of all EMB staff and advisers. This provided a fora for discussion on possible gender and social inclusion measures and development of policy tools and mentoring of staff including an EO gender focal point.

Research, strategic planning and technical advice.

- ▶ Research. SECSIP commissioned a research on Women's leadership and political participation in 10 selected constituencies of Solomon Islands. This research provided a better understanding of which factors can impact by inhibiting or enabling women's political participation.
- ▶ Technical expertise.
 - Prior to the 2014 election SECSIP engaged IC Navanita Bhatakaria¹⁶ who facilitated trainings for electoral staff and contributed to development of sensitive gender materials which reflected the importance of women participation at all levels

¹⁵ Initially SECSIP Project Document did not include a dedicated output/activity area to women. This fifth activity area was included at the request of international development partners in 2016.

(voters, electoral staff, candidates).

- Upon departure of this IC, the Project recruited a national gender and elections officer Deborah Kole who had the support of a short-term international expert Lawrence Robertson.
- As referred under activity 4, a legislative drafter was engaged by SECSIP to support the electoral and political reform package. As a result of the constitutional revision, provisions had been introduced to require that at least one member of the Electoral Commission should be a woman. The legislative drafter also prepared a bill for the amendment of the 2014 Political Parties Integrity Act which included measures to strengthen women's participation in the political life.
- In 2018, in alignment with the Research findings and with the Women Support Plan, senior national adviser on women's political participation Ms. Afu Billy was engaged. This adviser has made a significant contribution to the strengthening of the project support on women's issues providing advice to the TSM Task Force led by the MWYFA and to the provincial government of Western Province on the possible introduction of TSM at provincial assembly level.
- ▶ Women Support Action Plan (2018). The plan took into account the findings and recommendations of the above referred research. Given the proximity of the NGE, the plan proposed a range of immediate short-term measures within a more general longer-term support beyond the electoral period. Short-term recommendations included capacity building of women leaders in the lead up to the 2019 elections (pre-nomination trainings followed by candidate schools for nominated/intending candidates) and enhancement of accessibility to information and to basic resources which led to the establishment of four candidate resource centres. This plan highlighted the importance of continuous support beyond the electoral period and the need for synergies amongst national and international partners active in the space of women's leadership awareness raising in order to advance on the women's agenda and consolidate results.
- ▶ In May 2019, SECSIP organised a reflection workshop attended by 12 NGE women candidates who contested in 12 constituencies in Guadalcanal, Choiseul, Malaita, Makira and Isabel provinces and Honiara. The participants provided

recommendations related to policy and legislation, future role of SECSIP and women based organisations to be taken into account in policy making and project support to create enabling environment for women political leadership.

- ▶ A policy on Gender and Social inclusion was developed with the support of SECSIP expertise in 2017. The Policy is currently being revised to make adjustments in line with the feedback provided by stakeholders and EMB identified priorities for the next electoral cycle.

Youth and community engagement.

- ▶ To provide avenues to raise awareness and debate on women's participation amongst the youth, a school essay and poster competition on women leadership and political participation was conducted (2016 & 2017-2018). This activity target the participation of youth and their teachers promoting a more inclusive society and decision-making. An exit strategy for the continuity of this activity is being explored to be presented to MEHRD authorities.
- ▶ A reflection workshop to gather feedback on project support to women candidates was organized in May 2019 and was attended by 12 NGE women candidates¹⁷. The participants provided recommendations related to policy and legislation, future assistance of UNDP and SECSIP and the need for the continuous involvement of women based organisations to be taken into account in policy making and project support to create enabling environment for women political leadership
- ▶ The initiative Outstanding Women (OW) of Solomon Islands' was launched in 2019. Its focus is the acknowledgement of the achievements of women at grassroots level as a tool to assist in the identification of women with core leadership values and community service. To this end, SECSIP established partnerships with 8 Provincial Councils of Women (Guadalcanal, Malaita, Makira, Western, Isabel, Temotu, Choiseul, Renbell) and Honiara City Council/YWCA and jointly developed OW plans and timelines to conduct gender awareness mentoring.

¹⁶ Engagement of this IC in 2014 was carried out under activity 3 (activity 5 had not yet been introduced)

¹⁷ These candidates had contested in 12 constituencies located in Guadalcanal, Choiseul, Malaita, Makira and Isabel provinces and Honiara.

D

Difficulties encountered and measures taken to overcome problems

Difficulties/challenges faced	Measures taken
<p>Completion of new electoral roll utilizing biometric voter registration technology (BVR) for the first time</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Technical support to the 2014 introduction of BVR complex technology for the first time ever using a totally new methodology to create a reliable voters' roll. SECSIP provided technical advice to the EMB in terms of review of legal provisions, IT, operational planning and development of procedures. • SECSIP also engaged expertise to develop voter awareness strategies and products.
<p>Project Management Soon after the 2014 NGE, the CTA suffered a serious illness which required extended medical leave.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To mitigate the impact on project management and delivery, UNDP engaged on a short-term basis two senior ICs. • A new CTA reported to duty in October 2015.
<p>The integrity of the BVR data at risk In October 2017, a system failure occurred which severely put at risk the integrity of the BVR data</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The risk of loss was mitigated by the timely intervention of SECSIP expert. Nevertheless, this situation again highlighted the needs in terms of replacement of obsolete equipment, software upgrades and training of core staff. SECSIP proceeded to provide support by procuring new equipment that could enable data de-duplication to be conducted in Solomon Islands. SECSIP also provided BVR technical support during the BVR provincial update (3 consultants, Dec 2017-April 2018).
<p>BVR System – Dependency from foreign entity</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identification of system weaknesses. • Provision of alternatives to gain control of national authorities over the system. <p>Note¹⁸: Despite of initial endorsement of the plan proposed by SECSIP, the EMB engaged the previous vendor which led to the termination of SECSIP BVR expert contracts and the continuance of vendor lock situation with a commercial contractor and lack of national control over the system.</p>
<p>Financial commitments of the Electoral Office</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Construction of Data Centre/multipurpose space at Vavaya Ridge compound premises contributing to reduce the financial burden of the Electoral Office and the enhancement the effectiveness and security of electoral operations.
<p>Logistical challenges for timely delivery of BVR equipment (Batteries for BVR kits) Delay in arrival could jeopardise entire feasibility of elections within prescribed law timeframe.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Arrangement of charter flight from Australia to Solomon Islands to ensure timely arrival of this critical equipment. International partners were informed of this decision and extra costs derived from charter flight were covered with UNDP funding.
<p>Limited staffing structure of beneficiary institutions</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Graduate programme (2018-2019): As a temporary mechanism to contribute to the enhancement of capacities and sustainability of the partners organisations (Electoral Office & Office of the Registrar of the Political Parties) particularly in the lead up to the 2019 NGE, SECSIP launched a Graduate Programme. A total of 10 graduates engaged by SECSIP (7 working with the EO and 3 with PPC) in support of human resources capacity constraints. • SECSIP engaged an Electoral Operations Adviser who worked closely with the EO Head of Operations in the planning and implementation of election events. This IC provided key operational support in the lead up to the NGE and post-election operational lessons learned exercises. • Engagement of a national Human Resources Adviser by SECSIP who assisted the EO in the recruitment of temporary staff in the lead up to the election. This IC also contributed to the identification of needs for the proposal to expand the EO staffing structure. • Engagement in the lead up to the 2019 elections of a Data Management Expert to develop tools for the counting and consolidation of results.
<p>Dissemination of voter information Solomon Islands is a Small Island Developing State (SIDS) with the majority of its population residing in remote rural areas with limited/no communications/information infrastructure.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Engagement of National Media Expert to support on daily basis the EO Senior Voter Awareness and Media Manager (2017-2019). • Continuous mapping and engagement of CSOs prioritizing those with local presence in key constituencies to conduct face to face awareness activities and disseminate voter awareness materials. • Identification of key target segments of people (youth, people with disabilities, women) and development of partnerships to reach and engage them. • Innovative partnership with private sector (rice wholesaler SolRice 2018 & 2019) to distribute civic and voter education materials on a pro bono basis through its network. This enabled the distribution of approximately 220,000 voter registration leaflets and voter education booklets to reach remote communities in isolated areas.
<p>Sociological barriers to Gender Mainstreaming Patriarchic societal system hindering the promotion of women leadership and their political participation</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Engagement with key public authorities including MWYCFA and MEHRD. • Collaboration with CSOs and faith-based groups on awareness actions (2016-2019). • Design/facilitation of media trainings with specific gender awareness components (2017-2019). • Mentoring and capacity building of women candidates and leaders through pre-nomination trainings, candidate schools for women and male supporters and setting of 4 women resource centres (2018-2019). • Undertaking of innovative actions like 'Outstanding Women' in Solomon Islands initiative to acknowledge women's leadership at community level (2019).

¹⁸ See letter to CEO dated 8 August 2018

E Changes introduced in the implementation

Taking into account the UN NAMs conducted in 2015 and the UNDP Project Document covering the period July 2017-June 2020, the EU Contribution Agreement was amended to reflect a revised Description of the Action, an extended period of implementation as well as the additional contributions to the Total Cost of the Action made by Project development partners¹⁹.

No other changes have taken place vis a vis the Annex I and the Annex III, since the addendum 3 signed on the 28th august 2019.

¹⁹ This has enabled the Solomon Islands electoral authorities to receive the continued support of the EU throughout a period of 78 months in the lead up to the national general elections as well as for the post-election phase. See also footnote 1 on page 3.

F Achievements and results in accordance with performance indicators

Given the length of the period implementation (July 2013-December 2019) covering 2 electoral cycles, the achievements and results are presented in 2 intervals as follows:

- From January 2016 to December 2019 in connection with the 2019 national general election electoral cycle,
- From July 2013 to December 2015 pertaining to the previous electoral cycle.

Results contributing to the enhancement of capacities in



Human resources
technical knowledge

Long standing
benefits - Equipment
& infrastructure



Inclusiveness

Lessons learned



Sustainability

Awareness, transparency
& confidence building of
the electorate








Gender mainstreaming
sensitization

Result 1: Sustainable voter registration system created to strengthen the inclusiveness and integrity of the electoral cycle

Result area	Achievement status	Main activities
New voter registration system implemented	Achieved	1.1, 1.2
New register of voters created	Achieved	1.2
IT related skills, voter registration technology and sustainability enhanced	Foundation for progress established	1.3, 1.4
Inclusiveness of voter registration system enhanced	Achieved	1.3
South to South Cooperation with other Electoral Management Bodies supported	Substantially Achieved	1.5

Key results

	Key results
	Timely completion of voter registration roll with BVR technology for 2014 NGE
	Accuracy and reliability of voter's roll due to use of BVR technology 2010 voters' roll had 448,188 entries 2014 voter's roll had 287,562 entries 'clearing' 160,000 multiple entries from previous roll 2019 voter's roll has 359,523 entries
	Inclusiveness of the electoral roll Estimated that 85% of the eligible population in 2014 and 86% of the eligible population in the updated voters' roll in 2018-2019.
	Through south-south activities, 50% of EMB Senior Officers visited at least 1 country.
	100% of EMB staff benefited from BRIDGE trainings with EMB staff from the Pacific region.

New Voter Registration (VR) system²⁰ implemented and a new registry of voters created

SECSIP was instrumental to conduct the necessary steps for the introduction and implementation of a biometric voter registration system in support of the decision adopted by the Solomon Islands authorities. This required important efforts in terms operational planning and capacity building and was seen as a substantial contribution to build the credibility of the EMB. Through the introduction of a BVR system, the likelihood of fraud was notably reduced establishing a reliable electoral roll.

There were, however, some limitations with respect to the services provided by the BVR system contractor which included:

- Insufficient transfer of technical skills and capacity building delivered by the contractor;
- System complexity with non user-friendly features;
- Software based on proprietary components that technically lock the Solomon Islands Government (SIG) and the electoral authorities with the initial vendor, making it financially unsustainable.

Further work remains to be done to build the sustainability, education, transparency and optics of how the BVR moves forward.

July 2013-December 2015

Solomon Islands Electoral Office first initiated the BVR exercise in September 2013 and was completed in March 2014 ahead of National General Election (NGE) held in November 2014.

As reported in the independent project evaluation assessing the period July 2013 – June 2017, the 2014 national election was considered a success, particularly with respect to the inclusiveness and reliability of the electoral roll.

- ▶ **Inclusiveness:** The new roll incorporated 287,562 entries, 148,504 male registrants and 139,058 female registrants, which was estimated to represent 85% of the eligible population in 2014.
- ▶ **Reliability:** By using the new BVR technology, approximately 160,000 names were removed due to the identification of duplicated entries resulting in the production of more reliable voters' lists.

SECSIP supported this effort through logistical and planning support, capacity building of the registration staff and the voter awareness activities for the biometric voter registration.

The table below provides a comparison between the number of registered voters in 2014 and 2019²¹ providing a sex disaggregated breakdown. The composition of male and female registered voters experienced a minor decrease in the group of registered males from 51.64% to 51.46% from 2014 to 2019 whereas the number of female registered voters increased from 48.36% in 2014 to 48.54% in 2019.

²⁰ The implementation of a new VR system was completed in 2014. Accordingly, no summary is provided for the period 2016-2019

²¹ Data Collection and public hearings on objections to provisional voter lists were conducted in December 2018. Final voter lists for 2019 National General Election were approved by Electoral Commission in January 2019

Table 01: Voter registration data comparison (2014 and 2018-19)

Items	2014	2018
No. of registrants on Provisional List of Voters	297,305	371,866
No. of Claims of Omission	2,018	666
Claims of Omission accepted/rejected	1853/165	543/123
No. of Notices of Objection	2,725	14,853
Notices of Objection accepted/rejected	1741/984	11,879/2,974
No. of registrants on Final List of Voters	287,562	359,523
Increase from 2014 to 2019	Not applicable	71,961 or 25.02%
Gender breakdown – female/male	48.36%/51.64%	48.54%/51.46%
Largest constituency (number of registrants)	13,529 (Central Honiara)	15,986 (Central Honiara)
Smallest constituency (number of registrants)	2,512 (Shortlands)	3,142 (Malaita Outer Islands)

Indicator 1.1.1: Number of male and female officials²² trained to implement voter registration exercise²³

Training of voter registration officials followed a cascade (train the trainer) modality both for the creation of the 2014 new voter registry as well as for the national update conducted in 2018-2019. As such, Registration Managers and Registration Officers were trained by the Electoral Office with the support of SECSIP, AEC and ESSP.

The voter registration teams were generally comprised of 2 data entry officials and 1 clerk. As part of the contractual arrangement with the BVR vendor, Data Entry Officers were trained in 2014 to use the BVR kits and software as this was the first time that BVR technology was being used. Given that in 2018-2019 the EO conducted an update of the 2014 registry, the number of teams needed for the 2018-2019 update was less enabling the EO to engage data entry officers who had been previously trained in 2014 by the BVR vendor.

The Registration Managers and Registration Officers after receiving their training in Honiara were deployed to the provinces where they provided training to the registration teams and assistant registration officers following the cascade methodology. Below table offers a comparison between temporary registration officers engaged for the 2014 new voter registry and the 2018-2019 update.

²² Original wording of indicator 1.1.1 is 'number of male and female polling officials trained to implement voter registration exercise'. Given that activity 1.1 focuses on the completion of voter registration, data provided in this section refers to training of staff involved in registration. Additional data on training of 'polling' officers is provided in page 30 reporting under Result 2.

²³ Means of verification: Annual Reports 2014, 2018; Training reports; Pictures; Training manuals; Evaluation report.

Table 02: Training of casual voter registration officers*

2014 Data collection for new voters' roll	2018-2019 Voter registry data update	2014 & 2018-2019 (production of provisional voters' lists)	2014 & 2018-2019 Public Hearings
278 Teams (included data entry officer and clerks)	197 Teams (included data entry officer and clerks)	10 Registration Managers (Trained by EO supported by SECSIP, AEC & ESSP)	10 Provincial Managers (Trained by EO supported by SECSIP, AEC & ESSP)
556 Data Entry Officers (10% women)	278 Data Entry Officers (30% women) +20 Data Processing Officer	2018-2019: 51 Registration Officers (9.8% women)	2018-2019: 50 Revising Officers (18% women)
Trained by BVR vendor		2014: 50 Registration Officers (2% women)	2014: 50 Revising Officers (8% women)
		Trained by EO supported by SECSIP, AEC & ESSP	Trained by EO supported by SECSIP, AEC & ESSP
278 Clerks (8% women)	197 Clerks (12% women)	2018-2019: 200 Assistant Registration Officers (30% women in 2018)	2018-2019: 322 Assistant Revising Officers (15.22% women)
Trained by Registration Officers	Trained by Registration Officers	2014: 170 Assistant Registration Officers (10% women in 2014)	2014: 170 Assistant Revising Officers (7% women in 2014)
		Trained by Registration Managers & Registration Officers	Trained by Provincial Managers and Revising Officers

*2014 estimated percentages of women as provided by Solomon Islands Electoral Office

The voters' roll completed in 2014 was partially updated for the electorate of Choiseul and Western Provinces during the last quarter of 2017 and beginning of 2018. A national update campaign was conducted in 2018-19 for the 2019 national general election.

It is noted that an important segment of the population of Solomon Islands are youth under voting age. Therefore, according to the estimated figures, 300,791 people have not been registered as voters and the majority are deemed to be under voting age (less than 18 years of age).

Indicator 1.2.1: percentage of people on new voter roll compared to estimated population²⁴

The last population census prior to the NGE was conducted in 2009 reflecting a total population of 515,870 persons. The 2018 estimated population was calculated to be 660,314²⁵ whereas the total registered voters are 359,523.

²⁴ Means of verification/source of information: Annual report 2014; voter roll database; 2019 NGE data analysis report, SIEC 2019 National General Election Report.

²⁵ From various sources, the population for 2018 was estimated to be 660,314 resulting in a rate of growth of approximately 1.28% per year (2018 was the year when the update of the voter's roll was conducted prior to the 2019 NGE).

Graph 01: 2018 registered voters and estimated population distribution by gender and province

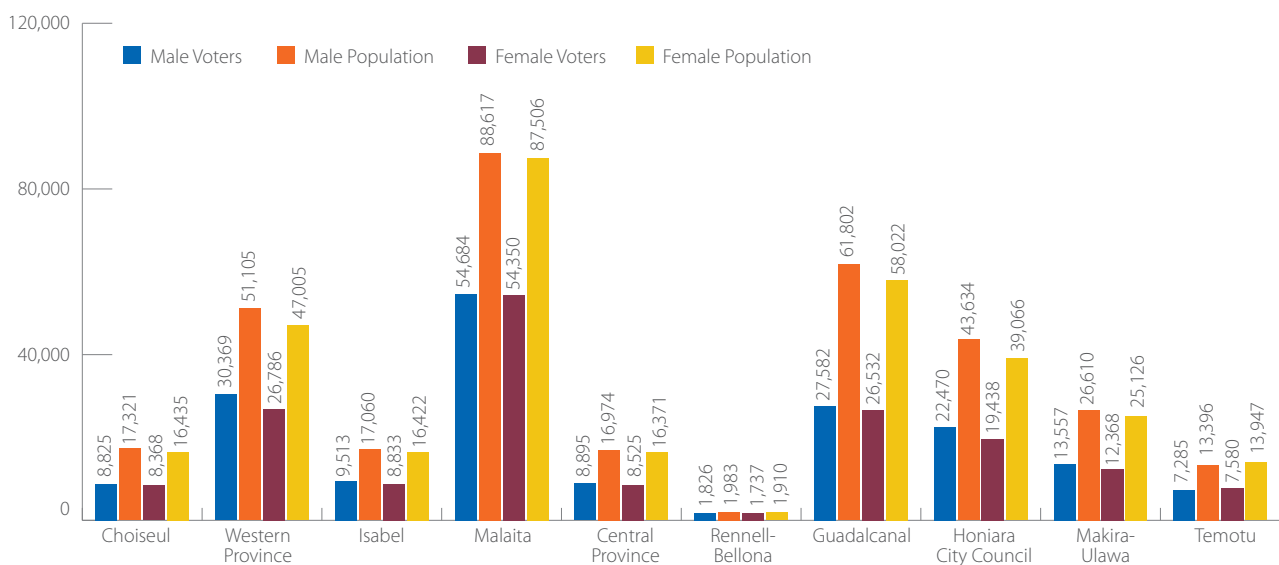


Table 03: Number of registered voters in 2014 and 2019

SN	Province	2014			2019		
		Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
1	Choiseul	7,096	6,728	13,824	8,825	8,368	17,193
2	Western Province	24,223	21,325	45,548	30,369	26,786	57,155
3	Isabel	8,467	7,859	16,326	9,513	8,833	18,346
4	Malaita	43,996	43,229	87,225	54,684	54,350	109,034
5	Central Province	8,064	7,483	15,547	8,895	8,525	17,420
6	Rennell-Bellona	1,409	1,356	2,765	1,826	1,737	3,563
7	Guadalcanal	21,836	20,803	42,639	27,582	26,532	54,114
8	Honiara City Council	16,139	13,595	29,734	22,470	19,438	41,908
9	Makira-Ulawa	11,081	10,111	21,192	13,557	12,368	25,925
10	Temotu	6,193	6,569	12,762	7,285	7,580	14,865
	Total	148,504	139,058	287,562	185,006	174,517	359,523
	Total in %	51.64%	48.36%	100%	51.46%	48.54%	100%



IT voter registration technology, inclusiveness and sustainability enhanced

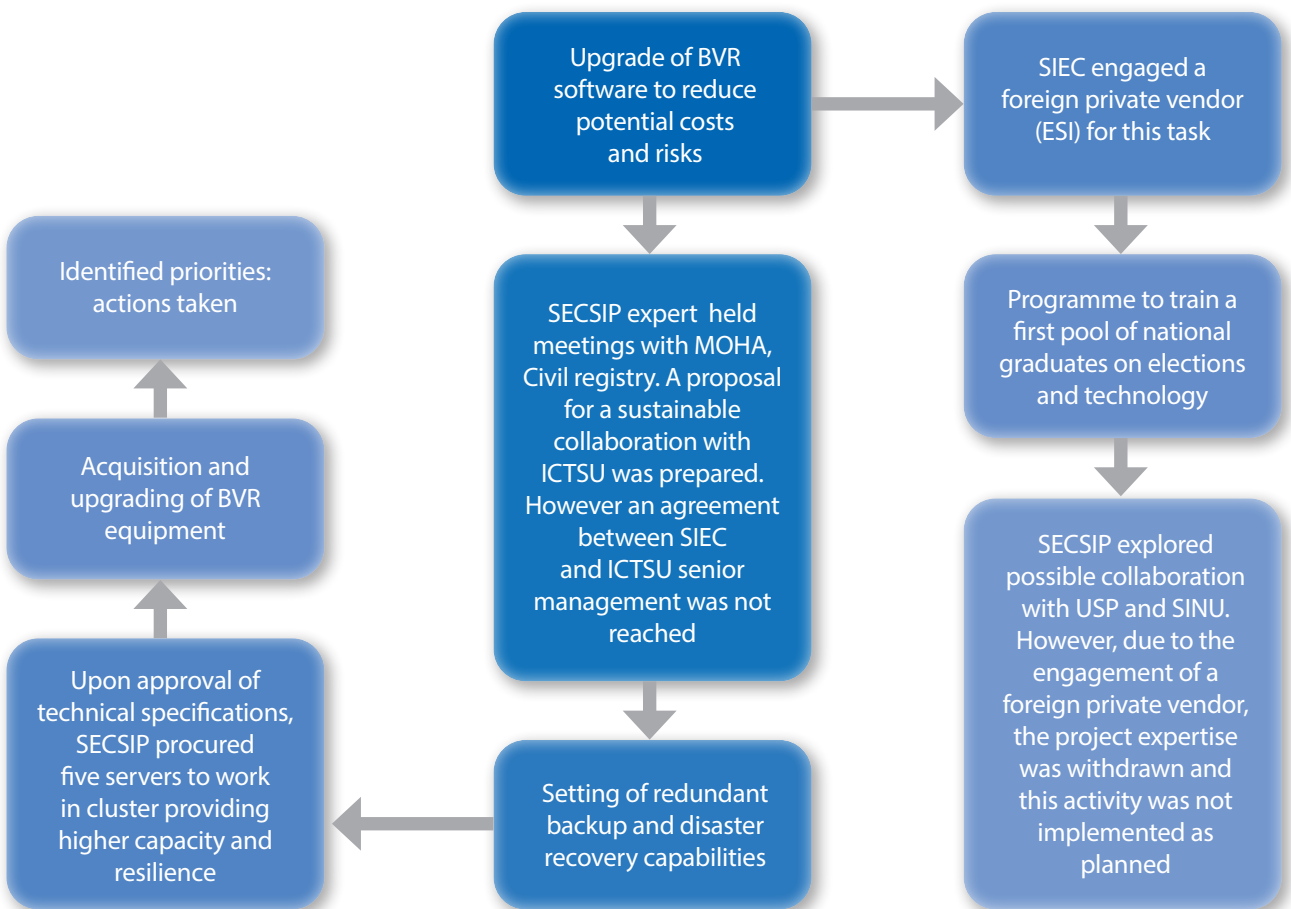
January 2016 – December 2019

As established in its Project Document, SECSIP assessed the system and identified alternatives to foster a sustainable long-term registration solution. This included the identification of software deficiencies, recommendations for risk management measures and options for enhancement of sustainability in terms of hardware, software and human/technical needs. SECSIP procurement actions included the provision of equipment to be utilized during the voter registration campaign including as well as the construction of database and results management centre utilized during the 2019 national general elections.

Upon agreement of the EO senior management, SECSIP carried the following activities towards the enhancement of the sustainability and inclusiveness of the BVR:

- ▶ Technical assessment of BVR software, identification of software deficiencies and options for the enhancement of BVR sustainability in terms of hardware, software and human/technical needs (Mr. Hamila; April-May 2017, Oct-Nov. 2017 and June 2018). The expert developed an Options Paper proposing recommendations to enable SIEC to gain autonomy for the efficient management of the BVR database towards the sustainability of the BVR. The findings of the expert were shared with national and international stakeholders together with a proposal to streamline project support in this area. SECSIP brought this to the attention of the national authorities and a meeting was held at the office of the Permanent Secretary, MOHA with the BVR expert to discuss recommended actions to enhance sustainability which included:

Graph 02: BVR actions recommended to enhance sustainability



- ▶ SECSIP procured new equipment to enable data de-duplication to be conducted in Solomon Islands. SECSIP also provided BVR technical support during the BVR provincial update (3 consultants, Dec 2017-April 2018).
- ▶ Provision of advice to the SIEC and the SIG on the enhancement of data security and strategical aspects in connection with access, updating and upgrading, protection mechanisms of BVR data and future sustainability.
- ▶ Another long-standing benefit was the procurement of equipment²⁶ by SECSIP in support of BVR actions.
- ▶ SECSIP at the request of the Electoral Office (EO) engaged in early 2017 BVR expert Dries De Vleeschauwer to develop the capacities the EO on the technical know-how for the use of the existing BVR system. The EO Head of Operations and the Senior IT Officer had direct personal tuition from this expert with particular focus on use of BVR software features on data matching exercises.
- ▶ Resignation of EO Senior IT Officer (mid-2017), no in-house IT capacity. SECSIP support included:

- Identification and engagement three international consultants who supported the EO during the period December 2017-April 2018. The services rendered by these consultants were instrumental to carry out the partial update of the electoral roll. This enabled a more dependable functioning of the BVR system by contributing to the identification and recommendations for IT risk mitigation measures and providing a more effective management of the EO Data Centre.
- Proposal of a plan focusing on the aspects of enhancement of ownership and sustainability. The plan was endorsed by the national authorities.
- SECSIP expert developed the specifications for the acquisition of BVR equipment.
- Engagement of former SIEC IT Officer on a part time basis (2017) who carried out a review of the status of hardware and software, assisted with the training for data entry officials and with the production of the final voters' lists for the partial update conducted in Choiseul and Western Province.
- Discussions were held with other governmental departments (ICTSU) to plan and set disaster recovery capabilities.
- Contacts were initiated with educational authorities (SINU & USP) to establish an IT training curriculum for young graduates.

- ▶ Given the linkages between BVR and planning/implementation of electoral events, other key support in connection with voter registration was provided by the Elections Operation Expert.
- ▶ SECSIP also provided a national IT graduate working closely with senior EO management and advisers. Additionally, an International Data Management Expert was engaged by SECSIP upon the request of CEO to develop election results data collection and analysis.

July 2013 – December 2015

- ▶ Engagement of a Voter Registration/IT Expert Mr. Mohammed Ali (Nov 2013-June 2014) who contributed to the initial introduction, planning and implementation of the first biometric voter registration in 2014.
- ▶ Commission of a data driven evaluation by BVR Expert Mr. Ronan McDermott conducted in May-June 2015 to determine accuracy and completeness of the BVR database. This included the data-driven evaluation of the biometric voter registration database created in 2014. A comprehensive draft methodology for the data-driven evaluation was prepared and circulated amongst the senior management of the EO and advisors for feedback and, approval of the data analysis methodology.
- ▶ Engagement of Senior BVR Expert Ronan McDermott (2015) who conducted an analysis of the BVR system adopted by the EO. This analysis presented to EO with detailed information on technological and financial options and highlighted possible contractual constraints for EO's use of the database to be further analysed.

Indicator 1.3.1: Frequency that the voter roll can be updated in an electoral cycle²⁷

Pursuant to the NPEPA, superseded by the 2018 Electoral Act which entered into force on 25 September 2018, the electoral roll was to be updated annually. However, due to the limited resources of the EO (financial, technical and human) during the interval between the national general elections of 2014 and 2019, only a partial update was conducted in the last quarter of 2017 and beginning of 2018. This was in connection with the provincial assembly elections for Choiseul and Western Province as well as the by-election for Gizo-Kolombangara (Western Province).

²⁶ Data-centre server equipment, spare parts and batteries for BVR kits, heavy duty printer, generators, laptops, etc. (2017-2018).

²⁷ Data corresponding to indicator 1.3.2. on 'number of male and female polling officials trained to implement electoral processes' is provided under Result 2. Sources of Information for 1.3.1 indicator are: SIEC NGE 2019 report, SECSIP annual reports, EA 2018.

This partial update commenced with the delivery of registration kits in October 2017, with twelve (12) kits allocated for the Western Province to carry out registration of voters in nine (9) constituencies, and four (4) kits deployed to Choiseul to conduct the voter registration in three (3) constituencies. SECSIP supported the provincial update by recruiting three international consultants with expertise in electoral biometric voter registration systems. In December 2017, two of these BVR consultants engaged by SECSIP were deployed to Choiseul and Western Province where they provided helpdesk services and addressed software and hardware issues providing solutions to technical issues experienced by the EO IT department. Their experience served to streamline the process for identification of future needs as these consultants also designed an electronic checklist form to facilitate the status verification of the existing registration kits.

The adoption of the 2018 Electoral Act (EA) opened up to the possibility of continuous updates of the voter roll to be conducted by the EO. This approach will initially require an increase in the annual budget allocation of the EO. However, with a continuous update mechanism, the overall amount of funds needed to conduct voter registration over the electoral cycle will

be significantly less than if this exercise is carried out just in the year before the election resulting in a more economically efficient approach. A paper on this issue has been prepared by the EO and presented to the Members of National Parliament in April 2020.

Indicator 1.3.2: Number of male and female officials²⁸ trained to implement voter registration processes²⁹

The results for this indicator are reported under table 03.

Indicator 1.4.1: Functional voter registration tools and process³⁰

²⁸ The wording of Indicator 1.3.2 was 'Number of male and female officials trained to implement electoral processes'. This information is being provided on page 32 under Result 2 'Capacity of the SIEC increased and more effective administrative procedures designed and implemented for the SIEC to fulfill its mandate' instead of under Result 1 with focus on voter registration ('Sustainable voter registration system created to strengthen the inclusiveness and integrity of the electoral cycle').

²⁹ Means of verification/source of information: annual report 2014, 2018, 2019; procurement records; data analysis report.

³⁰ Means of verification/source of information: annual reports; procurement records; agreements with consultants/TOR; data analysis report.

Table 04: SECSIP support for a functional voter registration

Issues	Support action
Activities	Voter Registration/IT Expert Mr. Mohammed Ali developed EMS software in 2014.
	Data driven evaluation by BVR Expert Ronan McDermott to determine accuracy and completeness of BVR database in 2015.
	Enhancement of data matching features by Dries De Vleeschauwer in 2017.
	BVR expert Chahine Hamila in April 2017 conducted technical assessment of BVR software including its deficiencies and provided recommendations
	BVR experts designed an electronic checklist form and conducted the verification of the existing registration kits in early 2018. More works done on: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Specifications, architecture and documentation for initial upgrade of software for automatic backups, data quality and integrity and on architecture and guidance for the necessary setup of the data-centre. • Summary input needed to assist the establishment of SMS platforms for voter information as well as its operational support (as per request of CEO). • Software upgrades (remote work by Software Developer).
	Development of data analysis trends by Data Management Expert Pradip Maharjan in 2019.
Equipment	Procurement of servers, laptops, spare parts and batteries for BVR kits, heavy duty printers and generators.



South to south cooperation with other Electoral Management Bodies (EMBs) supported

January 2016 – December 2019

- ▶ **Study Tour to Samoa 2016 Election.** In 2016, SECSIP CTA liaised with the Samoa Electoral Office and organized a study tour for two EO Senior Officers of the Office of the Solomon Islands Electoral Commission during the general elections held in Samoa on 4 March 2016. Upon discussion with EO Senior Management, David Ramosae (Senior IT Officer)³¹ The Study Tour provided an opportunity of liaising with officials with an equivalent range of responsibilities in the Samoan EMB and therefore benefit from this experience in preparation for the next NGE in Solomon Islands.
- ▶ **Lessons Learned Workshop on Samoa 2016 Elections.** Upon return of these EO Officer and jointly in collaboration with the Registrar of the Political Parties who had participated as an international observer in the Samoa election, a lessons-learned workshop to share the experience and identify possible scenarios for Solomon Islands, was organized by SECSIP. The workshop was held on 18 March 2016 and attended by the staff of the EO and of the Office of Registrar of the Political Parties.
- ▶ **Study visit to Nepal.** In 2016, the EO Head of Operations and Senior IT Officer conducted a study visit to the Electoral Management Body (EMB) in Nepal. During this south to south collaboration activity, one of the most important components was for EO officials to liaise with the Nepalese EMB colleagues to learn about the strategies and approaches put in place with respect to field presence and provincial branches of the EMB. Another aspect of this study tour was to look into the sustainability of the BVR system and the application of new GPS mapping technologies.
- ▶ **BRIDGE training on Electoral Operations.** SECSIP proposed that the new 'Building Resources in Democracy, Governance and Elections (BRIDGE)' on Electoral Operations Planning pilot training was to be launched in Honiara. This south to south capacity building action benefited all the permanent

staff of the EO (at the time 7 senior officials) as well as 17 officers from other EMBs from twelve countries of the Pacific region who actively participated in this training. This first time ever training on BRIDGE Electoral Operations Planning was an important contribution to the Pacific EMBs and to the Solomon Islands in particular, and it has served as a global electoral resource since then. The one-week training was co-facilitated by SECSIP international consultant Anne-Sofie Gerhard, two trainers from the AEC and one electoral officer from the Samoa EMB.

July 2013 – December 2015

On 9 December 2015, O/SIEC Acting Chief Electoral Officer (A/CEO), Alphonsus Pero and then Principal Logistics Officer, Mr. Fredrick Bosoboe, had a meeting with Fiji Election Supervisor to explore about the challenge of Biometric Voter Registration (BVR) and the way out to solve those challenges and how to bring a technician to solve future problems since Fiji also engaged the same contractor.

Indicator 1.5.1: Number of EMB staff participated in the south-south activities³²

Table 05: Percentage of staff participated in South-South activities

Countries visited*	Percentage of staff
Samoa, Nepal, Fiji	50% of EMB Senior Officers visited at least 1 country
	100% of EMB staff benefited from BRIDGE trainings jointly with EMB staff from the Pacific region

* Details are given on pages 30, 56, 62, 63.






³¹ Madlyn Lagusu (Senior Training Officer and Gender Focal Point) also participated in this study tour. In this case the focus was training and measures to enhance gender participation.

³² Given the linkages between voter registrations as a key component of the broader operational support of activity 2, the table includes south to south activities in connection with activities 1 and 2. Means of verification: SECSIP Annual reports; conference press releases; newspaper coverage.

Result 2: Capacity of the SIEC increased and more efficient and effective administrative procedures designed and implemented for the SIEC to fulfill its mandate

Result area	Achievement status	Main activities
SIEC and the Electoral Office capacities to manage an electoral cycle enhanced	Substantially achieved	2.1
Infrastructure for more efficient electoral management improved	Substantially achieved	2.2
SIEC's operational planning, communication and coordination capacity strengthened	Substantially achieved	2.3

Key results

Key results	
	An Electoral Risk Assessment was conducted which identified weaknesses surrounding the electoral environment and made 15 recommendations a number of mechanisms to anticipate and mitigate electoral related risks.
	2019 Pre-poll Electoral Office conducted for the first time ever an early voting. This enabled 90.5% out of the total number of police and electoral officers who had submitted their pre-poll application to exercise their voting rights.
	Transparency, credibility and inclusiveness of the electoral process. A group of 167 domestic observers including 74 women and 7 people with disabilities were deployed through OXFAM and SISAC to observe 2019 NGE.
	Long standing benefits through infrastructure improvements (SIEC website, data centre room, additional rooms for EO staff, security, minivan) contributing to provide an enabling working environment for EO staff.
	Graduate programme launched in 2018 engaging 7 university graduates working in core electoral assistance under the direction of Senior Electoral Officers: 2 Field Coordination Assistants 2 Voter Awareness Assistants 1 Logistics Assistant 1 Human Resources Assistant 1 IT Assistant



Capacity of the SIEC to manage an electoral cycle enhanced

The EO successfully organised the NGE on 3 April 2019. This was the first NGE after the end of RAMSI period. A total of 310,667 votes were cast across the country with the final voter turnout averaging 86.41% (the highest Constituency turnout was West Guadalcanal at 95.81% and the lowest, Temotu Pele, at 77.28%). Of the total votes cast 309,765 were valid, and 902 were regarded by Returning Officers as being invalid. Of this figure 765 votes were informal, meaning the voter's intention was not clear; the voter had marked the ballot paper multiple times; or had not marked the ballot paper at all. The remaining 137 ballot papers contained no official mark. The total number of invalid votes represented 0.29% of all votes cast.

In 2014 NGE, a total of 287,562 votes were cast with the final voter turnout was 89.93%. The total number of invalid votes was 0.63% of total votes.

January 2016 – December 2019

Throughout SECSIP period of implementation, the Project contributed to a number of capacity building actions of the EO staff. This included the identification and organisation of trainings and courses and other capacity building actions involving direct support, mentoring and advice provided by SECSIP experts.

- ▶ **Solomon Islands Electoral Authorities Capacity Assessment (2016).** The Assessment was conducted by Senior Electoral Adviser Mr. Carlos Valenzuela following a participatory approach taking into account the views of relevant authorities and key stakeholders through thematic workshops and meetings. This included bilateral meetings and workshops with relevant stakeholders (SIEC, EO and PPC, other government authorities from MOHA and MPGIS and civil society representatives). The study was carried out through the assessment of the five principles of the electoral administration for the organisation of credible elections: professionalism in terms of efficiency and efficacy, impartiality, independence of action, transparency and sustainability. A presentation of the findings and draft report was prepared to triangulate the information prior to the finalization of the report ensuring the rationality of the findings and recommendations. The final report identified possible options for strengthening the electoral capacities and was presented to stakeholders on 30 August 2016 and to the Prime Minister on 5 December 2016.

- ▶ **BRIDGE Electoral Operations new module launched in Honiara (2017).** The contents of this workshop focused on the analysis of the electoral environment, the process for adoption of policy decisions, legal framework considerations, resources, internal and institutional fundamentals and key operational planning concepts and methodologies. The second part of the workshop was centred on practical cases for the identification of planning steps assisting EMBs to identify, prepare and undertake a comprehensive operational planning process. The participants of this workshop were provided with effective tools for the development of operational planning procedures.

- ▶ **Media relations.** A national media consultant was engaged by SECSIP (2017-2019) to support and mentor the EO in aspects related to media relations. This consultant planned and organised trainings on electoral related topics conducted in 2017, 2018 and 2019 and contributed to establish a fluid communication between the EO and media outlets. This national adviser worked closely with EO Senior Voter Awareness and Media Manager, providing coaching and mentoring to improve the EO capacity and quality service.

- ▶ **Support to Human Resources.** In 2018 the EO post of Human Resources Officer was vacant. At the request of the CEO, a national consultant was engaged by SECSIP to support the CEO in Human Resources related issues. The consultant's work was focused on the administrative aspects in connection with the engagement of temporary staff (voter registration and polling staff). This made a significant contribution to the strengthening EO's capacities³³ and the timely issuance of temporary contracts.

- ▶ **Graduate Programme.** With a view to strengthen the capacities of the EO in the lead up to the 2019 NGE, the project initiated a graduate programme in 2018. A MOU was signed with the SIEC, PPC, OPM and MOHA which provided the framework of collaboration for this exercise. SECSIP identifying and engaging 10 graduates who were deployed to work with EO and the Office of the Registrar of the Political Parties (ORPP). In the case of the EO, the breakdown of graduates was as follows: 2 voter awareness, 1 IT, 1 logistics, 1 human resources, 2 field coordination. The ORPP benefited from 3 graduates working as legal, research and training assistants as referred under result 4.

³³ See page 27 of the SIEC 2019 National General Election report.



Training of Revising Officers (5-8) Nov 2018.

As part of the sustainability approach of this action and as envisaged in the TOR, out of the 7 graduates working for the Electoral Office one female graduate has been directly engaged by the Office for a Senior Management post as Deputy Director Operations and a second graduate has been engaged by the Ministry of Police, National Security & Correctional Services as Senior Accountant.

- ▶ **Electoral operations expertise.** SECSIP contributed to improve the operational capacities of the EO through the engagement of an International Electoral Operations Adviser (OA) from June 2018 until May 2019. The OA worked closely with the EO Head of Operations providing significant support for the development of detailed plans for voter registration, candidate nomination, polling, counting and announcement of election results. The consultant contributed to the development of, electoral procedures and manuals, procurement of electoral equipment and materials, field coordination and logistical plans. The OA also provided key support to the efforts made by the EO in coordination with the RSIPF with respect to security related aspects of electoral events.
- ▶ **Support to procurement.** SECSIP supported the EO procuring electoral materials for the NGE. This included 2500 bottles of indelible ink, 1700 polling kits and 1700 counting kits. Additionally, technical guidance was provided by SECSIP Operations Adviser to prepare the tender documents for the printing of 550,000 ballot papers.
- ▶ **Training of polling staff.** Ahead of 2019 NGE, SECSIP advisers jointly with officials of the AEC facilitated two trainings. The EO to split the operational training of both electoral managers and returning officers in two phases: a) candidate nomination and b) polling and counting. The first one-week training took place in Honiara and was attended by 70 participants (10 Election Managers,

10 Accountants and 50 Returning Officers) from the 25th to the 28th January in Honiara. This training included sessions on the process for the allocation of voters to Polling Stations (PS) and PS general procedures; and communications and field reporting which were facilitated by SECSIP Operations Adviser. The second training was organized in 4-7 March 2019 for 10 EMs and 50 ROs on polling, counting, media and observer relations. Special emphasis was placed on the pre-poll and changes in the counting procedures (mixing and making of batches to enhance secrecy of the vote). SECSIP support was instrumental to prepare the templates for the filing of voting and counting complaints which were included in the training manuals with a view to streamline and build the credibility of the process. This manual is available on the Electoral Office website: <http://www.siec.gov.sb/index.php/nge-resources.html>

- ▶ **Candidate nomination.** The candidate nomination period commenced on 6 February and ended on 20 February. In accordance with the changes introduced by the 2018 EA, the candidates were required to submit their nomination in person at the centres set by the EO in each constituency. SECSIP contributed to the identification and organisation of the nominations centres and to the design of the new candidate nomination forms. Due to the weather conditions, a significant number of candidates experienced challenges to travel to the designated nomination centres. The EO with the support of SECSIP and ESSP advisers proceeded to activate the mechanism of secondary nomination centres outside the constituency foreseen in the law. This enabled the process to be timely completed. After final verification of candidate eligibility, the total number of candidates contesting in 2019 National General Election (NGE) was 331 including 26 female candidates. Link to the manual: <http://www.siec.gov.sb/index.php/nge-resources.html>

► **Pre-poll procedures.** To expand the inclusiveness of the right of suffrage to key segments of the electorate on duty during polling day, the Electoral Office planned and conducted for the first time ever an early voting on 21 March 2019. This additional service enabled police and electoral officials engaged in official duties on the polling day to exercise their right to vote. Given that this process was conducted for the first time, it required a full development of detailed plans and procedures as well as significant coordination efforts with the RSIPF. The role of SECSIP and in particular of the project

Electoral Operations Adviser was instrumental for the successful implementation of this process. The pre-poll planning was conducted in Honiara and provincial capitals of 8 provinces (except in Temotu as no police officers from this province applied for pre-poll). The overall turnout was 90.5% out of the total number of police and electoral officers who had submitted their application and were deemed to be entitled to vote in the pre-poll. The graph below shows the distribution of pre-poll voters by provinces.

Chart 01: Turn out of pre-poll voters

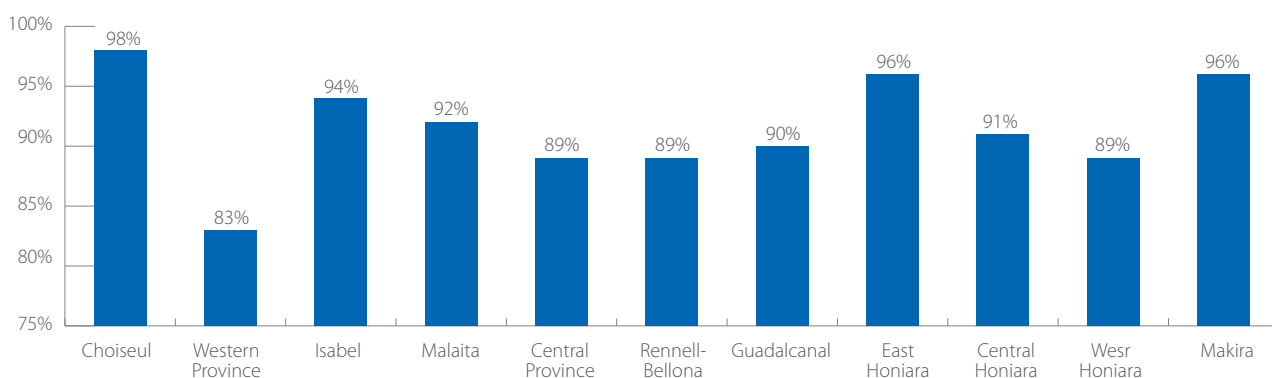


Table 06: Casual staff employed for 2014 and 2019 NGE

Items	2014	2018
Provincial Manager	10 (0 women)	10 (0 women)
Provincial Accountants (PA)	10 (20% women)	10 (30% women)
Returning Officer (RO)	50 (8% women)	50 (10% women)
Assistant Returning Officer (ARO)	79 (3.8% women)	150 (32.6% women)
Polling staff (presiding officer and polling assistant)*	Presiding officers: 867 (4% women) Polling assistants: 1734 (6% women)	Presiding officers: 1043 (20% women) Polling assistants: 2100 (35% women)

* Estimated percentages based on data provided by officials working in the provinces.

July 2013 – Dec 2015

► **Trainings.** The EO in 2014 conducted trainings and briefing events for Election Managers, Returning Officers, Presiding Officers, Polling Assistants and Counting Staff. On 22-24 September 2014, a three-day training was provided to 10 Election Managers and their counterpart Provincial Accountants (10 trainees in total, 2 women) in Honiara. The agenda included planning and financial duties, their roles as the manager of public awareness programs, media relations and gender sensitivity, 2014 Election Manual. A five-day training was conducted in Honiara for 50 Returning Officers

(one per constituency, 4 women in total) from 29 September to 3 October 2014. This included 18 different officers who were trained during the voter registration process. On 24 and 25 October, a one-day Voter Awareness Training for Assistant Returning Officers (AROs) (approximately 79 across the country) was conducted at the Provincial level by SIEC HQ staff (one per Province) to prepare AROs for their Voter Awareness duties in each of their constituencies. Each Returning Officer was also provided with a training kit and to conduct the training of their Polling Station staff (13-16 November 2014). The kit included the Presiding Officer and Polling Assistant Manuals.

► **Manuals and training materials.** The EO developed briefing packages including associated Handbooks and Codes of Conduct for intending Candidates, National and International Observers, members of the Solomon Islands Media and members of the Solomon Island Police Force. SECSIP support was instrumental to engage a Training and Capacity Building Advisor who provided guidance and worked with the EO Training Officer in order to developing training curriculum and materials and to conduct training sessions. They undertook a collaborative approach (worked together to prepare training materials) which enabled EO Training Officer to take ownership of the content given her a deeper understanding of the curriculum development methodology and the subject matter of

each workshop. This curriculum writing methodology was adapted from BRIDGE Facilitators' notes.

Indicator 2.1.1: Percentage of SIEC staff³⁴ that believe they are more capable of conducting their jobs than they were a year ago³⁵

Senior Management of the Electoral Office have all (100%) benefited from capacity building actions supported by SECSIP. Below table shows capacity building activities supported by SECSIP.

³⁴ For the purpose of reporting against this indicator, SIEC staff includes senior management of the Electoral Office.

³⁵ Means of verification: Annual reports; capacity assessment reports; training modules; pictures; performance appraisal forms; workshop reports.

³⁶ Commissioner Taeasi Sanga was not a permanent staff, however, it was considered strategic to enhance capacity of the only female member of the SIEC.

Table 07: Capacity building activities for Electoral Office staff

Year	SI EO staff (name, position)	Capacity building activity
2019	Moses Saitala, CEO; 2 EO senior Management, 8 EMs, 35 ROs, and 8 AROs and 1 Finance Officer	Lessons learned workshops facilitated by SECSIP IC Muammer Mrahorovic in Honiara, Auki, Gizo
	Philothea Paul (Senior voter awareness and media manager)	Mentoring in media relations by SECSIP IC Ednal Palmer
2018	Moses Saitala, CEO; Senior Admin –Training	BRIDGE workshop-strategic planning
	Fredrick Bosoboe (Head of Operations, 2014 – present)	Advice and mentoring by SECSIP IC Muammer Mrahorovic. Technical advice from this IC was instrumental for the planning of the mapping of the polling stations (allocation of approximately 500 voters per polling station which was positively received by observers and the electorate).
	Philothea Paul (Senior voter awareness and media manager)	Mentoring on media relations by SECSIP IC Ednal Palmer and on voter awareness strategic planning by IC Philippa Neave
	Noel Bogutu (IT Officer)	Data Collection and Processing during Gizo by-election
2017	Fredrick Bosoboe (Head of Operations)	Mentoring by SECSIP IC Pradip Maharjan
	Alphonsus Pero, (Acting Chief Electoral Officer)	Knowledge transfer on operational steps for data matching and adjudication in for registration updates
	Reuben Rongomea (EO Manager-Finance)	Gender mainstreaming workshop facilitated by SECSIP IC Navanita Bhatakaria
2016	Taeasi Sanga ³⁶ (Electoral Commissioner)	BRIDGE course on electoral operations
	Philothea Paul (Senior Voter Awareness & Media Manager)	GEO7 Conference, Washington DC, hosted by IFES
	Alphonsus Pero (Acting Chief Electoral Officer)	Management of Electoral Processes provided by the International Centre for Parliamentary (London, UK)
	Fredrick Bosoboe (Head of Operations, 2014 – present)	Strategic Reform of Electoral Processes provided by the International Centre for Parliamentary Studies (London, UK)
	Fredrick Bosoboe (Head of Operations, 2014 – present)	Attended a regional conference focused on the theme of political and parliamentary stability in Nadi, Fiji
	Fredrick Bosoboe (Head of Operations, 2014 – present)	Study visit to Nepal which provided an overview on the strategies implemented by the Nepalese EMB on the areas of gender, civic education and voter awareness and GPS mapping technology.
	Dominique Meleha (Administrative Officer)	Workshop on gender facilitated by SECSIP IC
	David Ramosaea (Senior IT Officer)	Study visit to Nepal which provided an overview on the strategies implemented by the Nepalese EMB on the areas of gender, civic education and voter awareness and IT
	David Ramosaea (Senior IT Officer) Madlyn Lagusu (Senior Training Officer and Gender Focal Point)	Study mission during the Samoa national general election in March

Year	SI EO staff (name, position)	Capacity building activity
2015	Policarp Haununu (CEO, 2013-2015) Policarp Haununu (CEO, 2013-2015) Fredrick Bossoboe (Head of Operations, 2014 – present)	3 Lessons learned workshops Visit electoral system of Fiji
	Policarp Haununu (CEO, 2013-2015) Fredrick Bosoboe (Head of Operations, 2014 – present) Calvin Ziru (PPC Registra) Mose Saitala (PM Adviser) Madlyn Lagusu (Senior Training Officer and Gender Focal Point)	Study electoral system of Samoa Lessons learned workshops Mentored by SECSIP Expert Ross Atrill
2014	Fredrick Bosoboe (Head of Operations, 2014 – present) Philothea Paul, Senior voter awareness and media manager Madlyn Lagusu (Senior Training Officer and Gender Focal Point)	Workshop on gender equality and gender mainstreaming facilitated by SECSIP Gender IC
	Philothea Paul, (Senior voter awareness and media manager) Madlyn Lagusu (Senior Training Officer and Gender Focal Point)	Mentoring by SECSIP IC Ben McNair Training of Trainer (ToT)-Election procedures, mentoring by SECSIP IC Ross Atrill



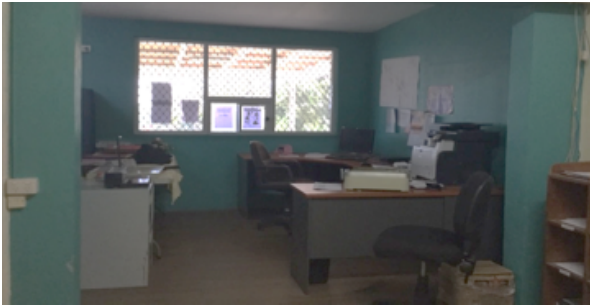
Infrastructure improved contributing to a more efficient electoral management

January 2016 – December 2019

- ▶ **Internet services.** In 2016 SECSIP established a contractual arrangement with Solomon Telekom Company to increase the capacity of the ADSL broadband services. Through this action the IT and the communication capabilities of the Electoral Officers and Advisers co-located at Vavaya Ridge Compound were significantly enhanced.
- ▶ **Electrical wiring.** A contractor conducted the enhancement of the electrical system of the EO premises which included the rewiring and general improvement of the security of the installation.
- ▶ **Storage of non-sensitive materials (2016).** SECSIP procured two shipping containers for storage of materials for EO.
- ▶ **Construction work (2017).** SECSIP presented a proposal for the extension of the external room adjacent to the CEO's office. Additional work in bathrooms, doors and windows was also carried out during this period contributing to the upgrade of SIEC's working conditions, physical infrastructure and general security.
- ▶ **Construction work (2018).** In the lead up to the NGE, SECSIP supported additional construction work which contributed to improve overall efficiency and security of the Vavaya Ridge compound. With a view to enhance efficiency of electoral operations and security of sensitive equipment and data, SECSIP presented a business case proposal to the EO in February 2018. Upon endorsement, SECSIP engaged a construction company and the new EO Data Centre the work was completed in May 2018. Later in the year, additional work included construction of a security guard house and boom gate, installation of security access doors with digital code to access the Data Centre and installation of security camera connected to a monitor installed in the Data Management Centre.
- ▶ **Construction work (2019).** After NGE 2019, in line with the envisaged increase of the staffing structure of the Electoral Office according to the Electoral Act 2018, the CEO requested the support of SECSIP to construct two additional office rooms for Finance and Human Resources. The completion of this work was certified by an engineer from the Ministry of Infrastructure and Development. Pictures of few constructions works are shown below.



Front view- additional room with information window.



Inside view- one of the new offices with information window for the public.



Security guard room and boom gate at the entrance to EO.



Inside view –Data-centre in the EO compound with secure server room at the end.

Extended annex included data centre, reception room, security guard room, HR and accountant rooms.

July 2013 – Dec 2015


- ▶ **Basic upgrade of offices at Vavaya Ridge Compound (2015).** To improve meeting facilities the project supported the refurbishment of the meeting room. To facilitate meeting sessions, the room was provided with a conference table and chairs, a flat screen TV, a supply cabinet and book-case, with a projector and screen.
- ▶ **Repair work (last quarter of 2015).** Construction work included the repair of walls, the removal of built-in cabinets, industrial cleaning and painting. It was finalized in December upon inspection of by the Ministry of Infrastructure and Development (MID).

Indicator 2.2.1: Percentage of activities in operational plan being achieved as a consequence of infrastructure improvements³⁷

Infrastructure improvement created an enabling environment contributing to the enhancement of performance of the electoral office staff and also provided a more secured environment.

³⁷ Means of verification: EO compound; layout of additional rooms; inspection report of construction works; tender documents; agreement with vendor; procured materials list; annual reports.

Table 08: Impact on SECSIP support on electoral operation activities

Support actions	Impact on operation activities
Additional space for the public (reception area) and office/rooms	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Accommodated extra staff during polling period in 2019. Provided more space for existing staff. Better facilities in person queries from public coming to the EO, particularly during NGE 2019 preparation.
Security room, boom gate, fencing around the campus	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Better safety of premises and more secured working environment for staff.
New Data centre (business case: the extension of SIEC premises)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2018-2019 voter registration update conducted in the EO compound Supported capacity building for registration campaign EO staff meetings and meetings with advisers also held at data centre venue Reduced financial burden of EO. -The amount paid by EO for rental of premises outside Vavaya Ridge compound was SBD 744,000 per annum in 2017 and 2018. This rent was inclusive of the lease of data centre premises outside the EO compound, in a different area of Honiara (Kukum). After construction of data centre funded by SECSIP inside the EO compound in Vavaya Ridge, the EO rental expenditure reduced to SBD 408,000 resulting in savings of SBD\$336,000 per annum.
GPS and mapping technology	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Not achieved. EO Head of Operations and Senior IT Officer conducted a study visit to Nepal and analysed the utilization of the EMB and benefits of this technology. However, in line with the priorities and recommendations identified by BVR expert Hamila, the acquisition of this equipment did not proceed.
Broadband internet (new bandwidth)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Enabled a more efficient use of email, browsing, video-conferencing, and respond to social media campaign. Regular update and maintenance of EO website Engaged over 10,000 Facebook users prior to and during the election period (February, March and April 2019).
Minibus 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The minibus procured by SECSIP had a cost of SECSIP USD\$30,056.53. Given the cost of maintenance the vehicle was initially registered as a project asset (X plate). The project engaged a driver to provide transport and allocated funds for petrol and vehicle maintenance. The vehicle was dedicated to logistical services for the EO. A significant part of these transport services were in connection with support to voter awareness activities (meetings with CSOs, PWD and religious/faith groups). The mileage done from its acquisition in 2017 until the time of formalization of the asset transfer in September 2019 was above 30000 km.



SIEC’s operational planning, communication and coordination capacity strengthened

January 2016 – December 2019

► **An Electoral Reform Task Force (ERTF).** ERTF was established in 2016 (there had been some previous meetings in 2015 prior to the formal constitution of this body). Its mandate was to provide an internal forum for discussion of issues concerning the review of the Electoral Act, Political Parties Integrity Act and consequential amendments to the Constitution and to provide guidance on an inclusive and participatory approach for this reform. A provincial tour plan to present and gather feedback on electoral reform issues was developed by this advisory body³⁸. SECSIP CTA and bilateral

advisers (ESSP) participated in the meeting sessions of this advisory body providing advice on technical issues.

► **Adoption of 2016-2019 SIEC Voter Awareness Strategy.** SECSIP Voter Awareness and Media Consultant Ben McNair supported the EO Senior Voter Awareness Officer in the development of this Strategy. The Strategy identified potential partners’ and priorities to enhance outreach maximizing EO planning in terms of communication. It was presented to the EO senior management on 19 January 2016 and to SECSIP Project Board

³⁸ ERTF was comprised of representatives of the Office of the Prime Minister, Ministry of Home Affairs, Political Parties Commission (and Office of the Registrar of the Political Parties), Solomon Islands Electoral Commission (and Electoral Office).

on 20 January 2016. The National Voter Awareness Strategy was formally adopted by the Electoral Commission in its first 2016 meeting held on 9 March 2016. <http://www.siec.gov.sb/index.php/nge-resources/publications/78-siec-national-voter-awareness-strategy-2016-2019/file.html>

- ▶ **Collaboration with media.** A Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) was signed in April 2017 with the Media Association of Solomon Islands (MASI). This collaboration was in line with the Voter Awareness Strategy which acknowledged the importance of strengthening communications between the EMB and the media for a more professional and transparent communication of electoral related events. The MOU provided the foundation for the joint design, planning and facilitation of a number of trainings on electoral related topics for media professionals to build their skills to report on electoral events.
- ▶ **Risk assessment.** An Electoral Risk Assessment was conducted in May and completed and presented to stakeholders in June 2018. This assessment identified weaknesses surrounding the electoral environment and recommending a number of mechanisms to anticipate and mitigate electoral related risks as well as identifying support priorities to be channeled through the project. This report can be accessed at <https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1fzCVfGagM16hRGtoCu99yc-Jr-5vCAoj2?usp=sharing>
- ▶ **Institutional website**³⁹. SECSIP supported an upgrade of the institutional website. In November 2017, Solomon Islands firm NOVUS LTD was engaged by SECSIP to conduct the website upgrade. During the voter registration period, the website featured a search engine to confirm names and ID numbers included in the final voters' lists. This resulted in a substantial increase of traffic and enhancement of transparency and accessibility of voter information. A training attended by EO, ESSP and SECSIP staff introduced participants to the new features and provided detailed explanations on the topics covered in the website user manual. This training on the redeveloped SIEC website was facilitated by a consulting firm. A Manual with practical cases on the new features of the site and the available tools to add contents and to manage it was produced by the site developers. Manual: https://drive.google.com/file/d/1WzyD7jATWXYFQMh9AqjQ5FqGUq__XZy5/view?usp=sharing
- ▶ **Collaboration with RSIPF.** On 13 September 2018 the EO signed a MOU with RSIPF providing the foundation to set the coordination of electoral related security plans in the lead up to the 2019 national general election. The EO supported by SECSIP continues to maintain close communication and collaboration with RSIPF.
- ▶ **Inter-Ministerial Electoral Operations Committee (IMEOC).** The reactivation of the IMEOC as a transversal inter-departmental mechanism facilitated the coordination amongst state agencies in the lead up to electoral events. The role of IMEOC includes:
 - Acting as a forum to support the EO in the coordination and management of all electoral events
 - Assisting to ensure the EO receives adequate and timely funding for all electoral events
 - Coordinating national government agency responses to the planning and delivery of resources for electoral events
 - Initiating and adopting policies which would result in an integrated approach towards assisting the EO during electoral events
 - Initiating and adopting policies which would encourage cooperation and sharing of resources across government as well as across provincial lines to better facilitate electoral events
 - Helping to build networks and partnerships with civil society groups and business entities to support the delivery of credible electoral events
 - Providing support for any other assistance which EO or the Commission may from time to time seek
- ▶ **Domestic monitoring of voter registration.** To contribute to the transparency and credibility of the national voter registration campaign, SECSIP proposed the engagement of national monitors. This resulted in a tripartite collaboration action between OXFAM and Solomon Islands Social Accountability Coalition (SISAC)⁴⁰ and the deployment of fifty (50) monitors to conduct a technical follow up in Honiara voter registration centers. SECSIP advisers supported the EO in the

³⁹ As a tool to facilitate voter education, the engagement of NOVUS was conducted under activity 3.

⁴⁰ This initiative was funded by Queens Young Leaders Programme through Comic Relief.

preparation of briefing materials and facilitated presentations on the voter registration procedures to enhance the knowledge of these monitors prior to their deployment.

- ▶ **Field coordination.** SECSIP supported the EO in the establishment of a field coordination mechanism during 2018 and 2019 which enhanced communication and reporting during voter registration and election preparation phase. As a result of SECSIP support to this area, the EO has identified and successfully established a new position of Deputy Director Operations with focus on field coordination. The incumbent of this post will have a crucial responsibilities in the envisaged expansion of provincial offices. A former SECSIP Field Operations graduate (female) has been recruited for this new post.
- ▶ **NGE Data management and results analysis.** SECSIP engaged a short-term Data Management Expert (DME) to provide additional operational support for the development of tools and forms setting of batches for the ballot counting and for the consolidation of results. A report analysing the 2019 NGE results is accessible at <https://drive.google.com/open?id=1Zy-QI8R-qlxEt5L41B-j5WdWQbiaBK6t7>. This report developed under the guidance of SECSIP CTA compiled statistical data providing a tool to identify trends and results analysis and contributing to the building of the institutional memory.
- ▶ **Partnership with CSOs and private enterprise.** SECSIP engaged 15 CSOs and SolRice for voter awareness activities. More detail is given under

output 3. SECSIP team also engaged with the Association of Persons with Disabilities (PWDs) with a view to assess possible measures to enhance the participation of this group.

Impact assessment and observation



Lessons learned on 2019 NGE. On 3 April 2019, Solomon Islands held the first national general election since the departure of the Regional Assistance Mission to Solomon Islands (RAMSI) in June 2017. With a view to continue building on the achievements made by the EO in the 2019 NGE, three lessons learned workshops (held in April 2019 in Auki, Honiara and Gizo) were conducted to identify good practices, areas for improvement /challenges and the way forward for future electoral activities. The concept and agenda were designed by Mr. Mose Saitala, SIEO Chief Electoral Officer and SIEC Commissioner, in consultation with SECSIP Electoral Operations Adviser who was the main facilitator of these workshops. In addition to senior management and advisers of the EO, two of these lessons learned workshops were conducted in the provincial capitals of Malaita and Western Province (Auki and Gizo) as a way to ensure the participation of Electoral Managers and Returning Officers. This resulted in a very participatory exercise obtaining valuable observations from key implementers who actively contributed to identify weaknesses in the training of polling staff and the need for the continuous capacity building efforts for electoral officials. Link to the report: https://drive.google.com/file/d/1YNZtpe8apu_UG19ZvnykN6UT_31tH1pY/view?usp=sharing



Queue of voters to cast vote in the East Makira by-election 2019



SECSIP CTA inaugurating the reflection workshop with domestic observers.

► **Support to domestic observation of the 2019 NGE.** In the lead up to the national general election and given the previous positive interest from civil society to be involved in electoral events, SECSIP partnered with OXFAM through a micro grant agreement to facilitate the participation of domestic observers. OXFAM had a strong collaboration with the coalition of civil societies and the civil society umbrella organisation (SISAC & DSE respectively) facilitating the setting of an enabling environment for the participation of domestic observers representing accredited national civil society organisations. The selection of domestic observers was conducted by SISAC and DSE taking into account the inclusiveness criteria established by SECSIP which recommended a composition with 50% women and the engagement of people with disabilities. The final breakdown resulted in a group of 167 domestic observers with 74 women and 7 people with disabilities (including 3 women).

Table 9: Distribution of National General Election (NGE) observers

Observers	2014 NGE	2019 NGE
National observers	6 (4 females & 2 males).	167 (74 women, 7 from the SI Association of PWD) More inclusive. A substantial increase over 2014 observers.
International observers	125 (disaggregated data is not available)	189 (87 women)

- **Monitoring of Provincial Elections.** Two CSOs (Tefila and Stages of Changes) which had been previously engaged by SECSIP presented a proposal to monitor these elections in Guadalcanal, Ngella and Malaita provinces to be held on 12 June 2019. These 2 CSOs deployed a total of 25 (15 women) national monitors to conduct a technical follow-up of the provincial assembly elections. Prior to their deployment, the Ministry of Provincial Government and Institutional Strengthening (MPGIS) with SECSIP support provided trainings to these monitors before their deployment to the selected provinces.
- **Observation of Makira by-election.** The EO supported by SECSIP facilitated the process of accreditation and deployment of 3 domestic observers for the East Makira by-election on 11 December 2019 simultaneously held with the election for the Makira Provincial Assembly.
- **Workshop on findings of domestic observers/monitors.** With a view to receive feedback and triangulate information, SECSIP organised a reflection workshop on 8 August 2019. The workshop was attended by the CEO, the EO Senior Voter Awareness and Media Manager and 25 NGE domestic observation team leaders (8 for provincial assembly elections, PAE). The discussions were moderated by SECSIP CSO Coordination Manager who assisted in the identification of gaps and provided guidance on tools to contribute to validate findings. The NGE 2019, observers reported an overall improvement over 2014 NGE and commented that there had been higher participation of people with disabilities (PWD). They expressed concerns on the cases

of cross-border voter registration and the process of recruitment of polling staff. They commended the efforts of the EO and the support given by SECSIP on voter awareness and emphasized the need to continue civic/voter awareness actions through the electoral cycle. With respect to the provincial assembly elections, the monitors stated their perception that the electorate was less motivated to participate than in the NGE. They also pointed out the need to train and enhance skills of polling staff and voters.

July 2013 – December 2015

- ▶ **Workshop with intending candidates.** Following the advertisement on newspapers for several days on 15 October 2014, a briefing session was offered by the EO to all interested intending candidates for the 2014 National General Election. This event was attended by 250 persons including 12 women. On 16 October 2014, a half day briefing was conducted for 24 intending Female Candidates by SECSIP Gender IC Advisor Navanita Bhattacharia and EO Training Officer Madlyn Lagusu. The briefing included topics like discussion on candidate and agent handbook, political party and election nomination, counting, polling agents etc.
- ▶ **Briefing to Observers.** A briefing session was provided to 15 Australian observers from ANU and 60 Solomon Island nationals on 30 October 2014. This included an overview of the SI Electoral system and an exploration of the SI Observers' Code of Conduct. On 14 November 2014, another briefing was provided to another group of 60 international observers from the Commonwealth Secretariat, the Pacific Forum, Diplomatic Missions and Donor Organisations. The attendees were provided with copies of the SIEC Handbook for Election Observers.
- ▶ **Media.** In the months leading up to the election, the SIEC Media and training teams supported by SECSIP worked together with media professionals and developed a Code of Conduct for the media sector. SIEC Media team also conducted 1-hour accreditation briefing for 50 media professionals.



Lessons learned. During 2015, following the NGE 2014, three lessons learned exercises/workshops were held to review operational, human resources, media, training, logistics aspects of the biometric voter registration and of the election related procedures. These lessons learned exercises were held in Auki (covering Malaita and Central Province), Honiara (for Guadalcanal, Isabel, Makira, Renbel, Temotu and Honiara constituencies) and Gizo (covering Western Province and Choiseul). The workshops resulted in the identification of administrative deficiencies and procedural constraints and the subsequent issuance of key recommendations to assist in the streamlining of registration and election related procedural issues. These workshops documented feedback from EO staff, registration and polling officials together with UNDP SECSIP staff and ESSP advisers.

- ▶ **Construction of SIEC website.** SECSIP supported the development of SIEC's institutional website. In the lead up to the NGE 2014, it received 21, 636 visits (13,014 visits in Nov.2014 only). This provided parties, candidates, CSOs, voters with timely information specially the list of candidates and voting locations.

Indicator 2.3.1: Number of electoral stakeholders that SIEC formally engaged with on regular basis⁴¹

With a view to support SIEC and contribute to the implementation of its mandate, SECSIP developed synergies and strategic partnerships with a range of national stakeholders including government and civil society entities contributing to a more enabling environment for credible and inclusive elections.

⁴¹ Means of verification: MOU; SIEC NGE 2019 Report, SECSIP Annual Reports; Meeting notes; newspaper coverage; CSOs reports.

Table 10: Electoral stakeholders engaged by the EO with SECSIP support

Actions	Stakeholders engaged
1. NGE 2019 observation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • OXFAM • SISAC (Solomon Islands Social Accountability Coalition) • DSE (Development Services Exchange, CSO umbrella organisation) • SI Association of People With Disabilities (PWDs)
2. Provincial election monitoring	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ministry of Provincial Government and Institutional Strengthening (MPGIS) • CSO: Tefila • CSO: Stages of Change
3. Voter registration monitoring	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SISAC • OXFAM (INGO) • Electoral Office
4. Security during voter registration and election	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • RSIPF • Australian High Commission/ Australian Defence Forces (in lead up to 2019 NGE)
5. Media professionals	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MASI (Media Association of Solomon Islands)
6. Review of the Electoral Act, Political Parties Integrity Act and consequential amendments to the Constitution	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Electoral Reform Task Force • Office of the Prime Minister, • Ministry of Home Affairs, • Political Parties Commission (PPC) • Solomon Islands Electoral Commission (and Electoral Office) • National Parliament
7. Voter awareness on political integrity act	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PPC
8. Political participation of women, TSM	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ministry of Women, Youth, Children and Family Affairs (MWYCFA) • National Council of Women • Provincial Councils of Women • PPC • MEHRD
9. Enhancement of inclusiveness	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Solomon Islands Association of People with Disabilities (PWDs)
10. Youth engagement for observation of voter registration, elections, and voter awareness	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PYFACSI (Pacific Youth Forum Against Corruption Solomon Islands) • MEHRD
11. Face to face voter awareness activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 15 CSOs
12. Dissemination of voter awareness materials	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SolRice • PWDs • Church and faith groups • Youth activists (PYFACSI)
13. Engagement of international partners (as a member of Technical Advisory Committee, roundtable discussion, workshops etc.)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Australia • EU • New Zealand (occasional) • Japan (occasional)
14. Network and linkage with UN agencies to use comparative advantages of different UN agencies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • UNDP Fiji, Samoa, Nepal • UN Women (SI, Fiji)



Solomon Islands

Map of constituencies where voter awareness activities have been implemented with CSO partners.

Result 3: National authorities and civil society organisations have better capacity to conduct voter awareness and civic education

Result area	Achievement status	Main activities
Strategic ability of the SIEC and PPC to conduct civic and voter education enhanced	Substantially achieved	3.1
Capacity of CSOs to provide voter education and coordinate with the SIEC enhanced	Substantially achieved	3.2
Implementation of civic and voter activities increased	Substantially achieved	3.1, 3.2

Key results

Key results	
	<p>Voter Awareness Strategy 2016-2019 developed and endorsed by the SIEC in March 2016</p> <p>89,250 voter education materials were distributed (excluding booklets and leaflets distributed through SolRice) in 2018-2019.</p> <p>78,234 materials were distributed in 2013-2014.</p>
	<p>On average 34 media professionals from Honiara and provinces were trained through 9 trainings (8 original+1 refresher training) organised during 2017-2019</p>
	<p>Partnerships with 15 CSOs in 2018-2019 helped to reach over 29 constituencies in 9 provinces to conduct face to face voter awareness activities.</p> <p>In 2013-2014, 3 CSOs engaged for voter awareness activities (SIDT, TSI and WISDM) on voter registration.</p>



A student cast her vote in the mock election in Isabel.



Strategic ability of the SIEC and PPC to conduct civic and voter education enhanced

January 2016 – December 2019

- ▶ **SIEC & PPC collaboration.** In 2016, a plan for collaboration and coordination in the design, planning and implementation of voter awareness related activities was developed by the Office of the Registrar of the Political Parties and the Electoral Office.
- ▶ **Political Parties’ foundation training.** This training included modules on communication and advocacy and campaign planning enhancing PPC ability to engage with the civil society. More information on this action is presented under Result 4.
- ▶ **Collaboration with Education authorities.** SECSIP supported the EO in the development of a proposal to launch a ‘school election project’ to be implemented in Solomon Islands secondary schools. Upon approval by the Ministry Education authorities, a pilot project was launched in 2016. This activity included presentations on the importance of voter registration and the exercise of the

right of vote, the role of members of parliament. Of particular note is the conduct of ‘mock elections’ by the students which was very well received by both teachers and students. This activity was featured in the photographic exhibition “The Power of Democracy” (19 September-5 October 2018, NY). Links:

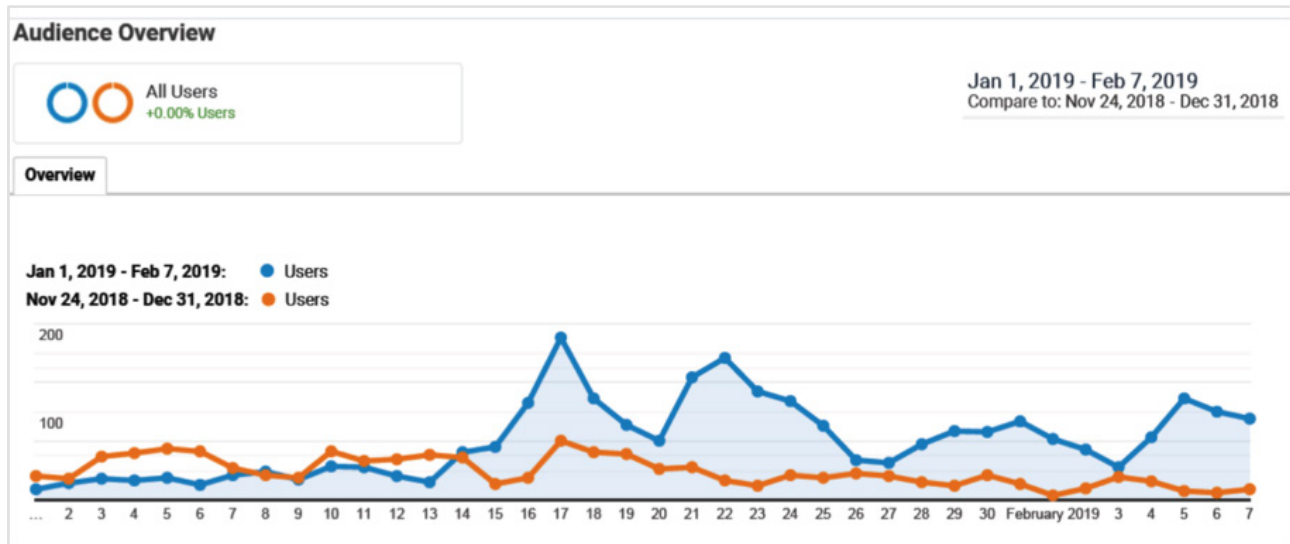
Administrator’s tweet: <https://twitter.com/ASteiner/status/1042513893409599491>

BBPS Director Mar Dieye: <https://twitter.com/MarDieye/status/1042550887217094656>
<https://twitter.com/MarDieye/status/1042551379896807424>

- ▶ **Support to website.** As referred under result 2, the redevelopment of the institutional website resulted in a user-friendly tool incorporating key information on voting, biometric registration, elections and up-to-date relevant electoral activities. This was reflected in the increase traffic which is shown in graph 1 comparing visitors in Nov 2018 to Dec 2018 and Jan to Feb 2019.

Additionally, through the use of social media platforms, the EO engaged with 10,000 Facebook users in the first quarter of 2019. During the month of March 2019 number of visits increased from 4,000 to 7,000 visitors a day.

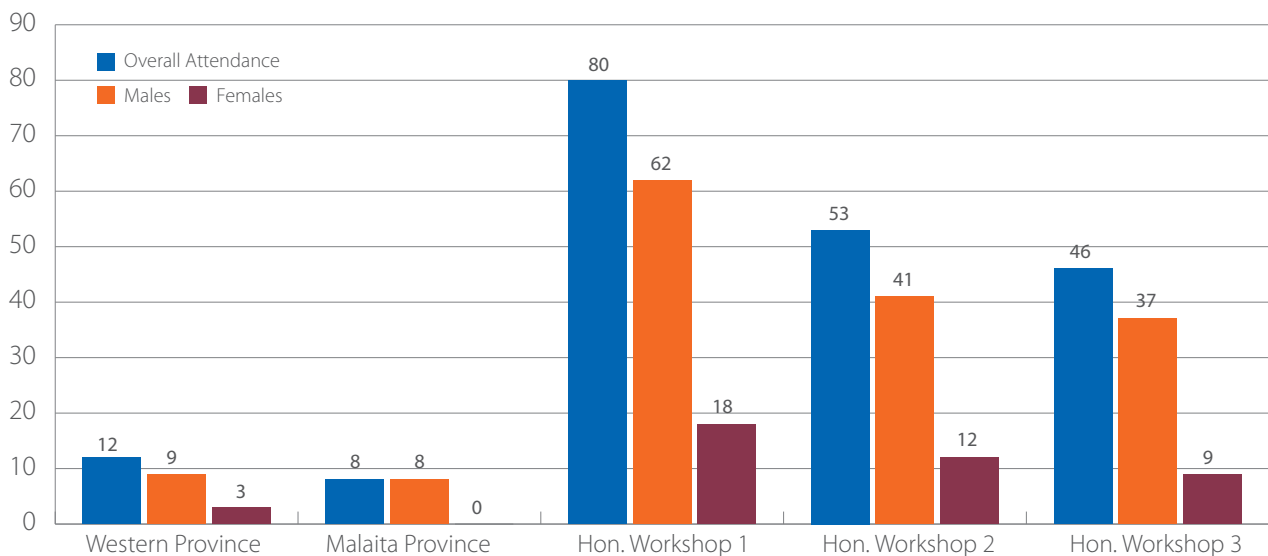
Graph 03: Visitors to EO website



► **Media Trainings.** As foreseen in the MOU between MASl and the EO, these 2 entities jointly designed and facilitated trainings for media professionals. Eight (8) training sessions were conducted every Saturday in April and May 2017 in Honiara. These sessions co-facilitated by MASl and the electoral office with SECSIP support contributed to the enhancement of the knowledge of media professionals on electoral issues as well as to strengthening of the media relations of the EO with the media professionals. These initial trainings were well received and were followed by two one-week trainings conducted in Gizo (from 21 to 25 August 2017) participated by 12 provincial based media professionals (3 female) and Auki (from 25 to 29 September 2017) participated by eight (8) media professionals. This was the first ever to have such trainings opportunities to be implemented

in the provinces, enabling media professionals based in these provinces to benefit from this capacity building initiative. Three additional Media Trainings were conducted in Honiara (21 Oct, 28 Oct, 4 Nov 2017) covering modules on social media & election, the code of conduct, and the reform of the electoral legal framework. It was estimated that these trainings were participated by 76% of all working journalists out of a total of 53 working journalists deemed to be serving in media organisations throughout the Solomon Islands during the relevant period. The graph below (source evaluation report on media trainings drafted by SECSIP consultant) reflects the breakdown of participants. Link to final report: <https://drive.google.com/file/d/1PUAK3REfQwqfYlZx6rR6uc8SBqR0BCQF/view?usp=sharing>

Chart 02: Distribution of media professionals received trainings





Awareness training for PWDs.

- ▶ **Follow up media trainings.** A total of 18 media professionals and civil society representatives based in Malaita province participated in a media refresher workshop on electoral related topics. The participants (5 journalists, 4 SECSIP CSO Grant recipients, 2 PWD representatives, 3 aspiring women candidates, 1 male champion, 1 female market vendor, 2 others) discussed issues related to the role of media concerning elections, impartial and gender balanced reporting, inclusiveness, new electoral act in a one-day workshop held in Auki, Malaita on 13 February 2019.
- ▶ **Engagement of CSOs.** SIEC 2016-2019 Voter Awareness Strategy identified face-to-face as the most effective channel to engage with non-urban population, SECSIP made an open call which resulted in twelve CSOs were identified and received grants from SECSIP during 2017-18. This enabled face-to-face voter awareness activities with 10,522 people from 147 communities in five provinces in 2018. Grants were extended based on their performance assessment of the CSOs⁴². Three additional CSOs to undertake awareness activities in the provinces of Temotu (due to its remote location this was the first time ever that face to face voter awareness was conducted in this province) Makira and Ngella were identified and engaged by SECSIP bringing to 9 the total number of provinces (29 constituencies) benefiting from face to face awareness. Structure in support of CSO engagement:
 - Given the importance of the involvement of civil society, SECSIP engaged a national CSO Coordination Manager (2018-2019). She worked closely with the EO Senior Voter Awareness and Media Manager ensuring the consistency of the message and contents implemented by CSO partners with EO guidelines.
 - Two SECSIP graduates engaged as 2 voter awareness assistants.
 - Steering Committee. This body was established on December 2018 with a view to conduct a technical follow up on civic engagement and voter awareness activities implemented by SECSIP CSO partners. The Steering Committee is a mechanism contributing to the efficient use of resources avoiding duplication of efforts and identifying linkages for possible synergies. Its composition include representatives of the Electoral Office and of UNDP Governance Team.
- ▶ **Social inclusion.** Training of People With Disabilities on Electoral Information. SECSIP organized a two-day awareness raising training for 22 PWDs (9 male and 13 female) in a venue with accessibility facilities in Lunga, Honiara on 26 and 27 February 2019. The participants were members of the Solomon Islands Association of People with Disabilities and included provincial representatives and 2 sign language interpreters. The focus was two-fold to provide electoral information on the changes introduced by the 2018 Electoral Act and for the EO to receive information from PWD on their challenges with

⁴² Melanesian Board of Mission (MBOM) in Isabel province, Stages of Change in Choiseul province, TEFILA and Hearts of the Hope in Malaita province, Guadalcanal Provincial Council of Women in Guadalcanal province.

respect to their participation in electoral events. The participants expressed their interest on the topics discussed noting that for the majority this was the first time that they were invited to learn and discuss about elections and their voting rights.

- ▶ **Private sector partnership for distribution of awareness products.** On 30 May 2018, SECSIP and SolRice, one of the country leading rice wholesalers and distributors, signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) to collaborate on a pro-bono basis for the dissemination of voter awareness materials. This helped to expand outreach through SolRice extensive distribution network disseminating 110,000 voter awareness leaflets ahead of voter registration to remote communities of Solomon Islands. The Association of People with Disabilities (PWD) supported this activity by inserting leaflets into the self-adhesive envelopes adhered to 40lb bags of rice. In January 2019, SECSIP undertook a second collaboration with SolRice on to distribute 110,000 booklets (which can be accessed at the following link (https://drive.google.com/file/d/1TvAOZbQjp8Lijwmo-VuR_Q6yyFDiPCD/view?usp=sharing) providing basic voter awareness information on concepts of democracy, elections, role of parliament. The link to launching of the second initiative: <https://drive.google.com/file/d/1iklv5g0cuEOmHV-YOZI3L13KYrtenM4Q/view?usp=sharing>
- ▶ **Voter awareness in market places.** To expand outreach of the rural population within a limited time-frame, the EO identified provincial markets as a key voter awareness venue to engage with farmers and rural population. This initiative was, with SECSIP support, implemented in 6 provincial

markets. The EO Senior Voter Awareness and Media Manager, SECSIP media consultant and the 2 voter awareness assistants (SECSIP graduates) conducted awareness sessions and presented and distributed voter awareness products as reflected in below table.

Table 11: Voter awareness at market places

Province	Date
Renell Bellona Province (Tingoa market)	28 Feb – 02 March 2019
Western Province (Munda & Noro Markets)	14 – 16 March 2019
Makira Province (Kira Kira market)	13 – 15 March 2019
Temotu Province (Lata Market)	26 Feb – 02 March 2019
Choiseul Province (Taro Market)	20 – 22 March 2019
Isabel Province (Buala Market)	8 – 10 March 2019

- ▶ **Production of voter awareness products.** Throughout its period of implementation, SECSIP was instrumental in the provision of technical expertise⁴³ and financial support for the identification, design and production of a range of awareness products including training manuals, brochures, booklets, posters, TV commercials and informational videos (see table number 12 on awareness products and table number 13 on distribution of materials). The project also supported the airing of radio voter information blocks, radio talk back shows and radio dramas.

⁴³ Experts engaged by SECSIP in support of voter awareness, media and graphic design: Ben McNair (2014-2017), Ednal Palmer (2017-2019), Millicent Neave (2018-2019), Millicent Barty (2014-2019)



CEO Saitala addressing the media in the presence of EU attachée Elena Méndez-Adalid, Australian HC Roderick Brazier, SECSIP CTA Olga Rabade and SI PWD representative Naomi Tai during the press conference on the launching of the first collaboration with SolRice.

Table 12: Voter awareness products supported by SECSIP

Products	Themes covered
Video	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How to vote (https://drive.google.com/file/d/1FtqKA8J0N9NFrBCRu7ytlwbOwClIKZV1/view?ts=5c9b5b87) • Choose the right candidate • Electoral offence (https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/16PFTgMaatYayPlm4ywrJfo9AtaNhSHMs?usp=sharing0) • TV commercials (voter registration)
Radio shows	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Drama ('Hanna's family') - These drama series aimed at raising awareness about democracy, good governance, and women in leadership. • Talk back show
Posters	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How to vote • Voter registration • Electoral offence and penalties • Ballot paper sample • Value your vote • Hotline number
Manuals	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • EO training manuals (EM, RO, AROs etc.) • Media code of conduct
Booklet	Voter education (governance, MPs role, etc.)
Fact Sheet	Steps in voter registration
FAQs	Omission and objections process
2019 Calendar	Key electoral dates with illustrations made by the secondary school competition on women's leadership and political participation
Hotline (a toll-free telephone number)	Responding questions and clarification on electoral issues from Nov 2018 to March 2019
Pull up banner and sticker	Voter registration

Table 13: Distribution of voter education products in the lead up to 2019 NGE (2018-2019)

Places/Persons	Stickers	Brochure Offence & Penalties	Brochure about Commission	Brochure about Election	Poster Offence & Penalties	Poster Ballot Paper Sample	Poster How to Vote	Poster Value your Vote	Booklet Voter Education
Polling Stations					2,000	2,000	2,000	1,500	12,870
RO's	300	2500	2,500	2,500	1,500	1,500	1,500	300	
CSOs	2,000	8,000	8,000	8,000	1,200	1,200	1,200	80	10,200
Market Awareness	300	1,000	1,000	1,000	50	50	50	150	600
Church Group	0	1,000	1,000	1,000					
Other Stakeholders	300	500	500	500					
Western/CSO group	900	900	900	900	90	90	90	900	2430
Youth group									200
Total	3,800	13,900	13,900	13,900	4,840	4,840	4,840	2,930	26,300

► **Knowledge, Attitude and Practice (KAP) study.** SECSIP commissioned this study which was conducted in August – September 2019 to assess the impact of voter awareness actions conducted by the EO with SECSIP support. The report is available at <https://drive.google.com/open?id=1b7sDd3P6isUaU1S6NctmgPtA7zGrVF1e> was finalised and shared with donors and stakeholders during the Technical Advisory Committee meeting held on 16 October 2019. SECSIP international KAP consultant presented the initial findings of the 409 close ended interviews with household members from 10 constituencies and 9 key informant interviews with CSO partners and EO staff. This study also includes comparative analysis with previous surveys in related areas giving readers an overview of the progressive impact of voter awareness programmes.

July 2013 – December 2015

► **2014 voter awareness materials.** A total of 78,234 voter awareness materials (including posters, stickers, flyers, DVDs, wristbands) were distributed as reported in the annual report.

Table 14: Voter awareness materials distributed in the lead up to 2014 NGE

Products	Total number of products distributed
How to Vote poster	5,000
Election penalties poster	4,000
How to vote poster	1,734
I am voting because poster	5,000
How to vote flyer	50,000
Election date poster	1,000
Election date sticker	5,000
DVDs	1,500
Wristbands	5,000
Total	78,234

► **Media support.** To support the EO in the development of a communication plan, SECSIP hired a media expert who worked with the EO Senior Voter Awareness and Media Manager in the plan, message design, production of materials and training of EO officers. SECSIP also identified and engaged a graphic designer for the development of the posters, pamphlets and other voter awareness materials.

► **Electoral staff trainings on voter education.** A training program for 79 Assistant Returning Officers was successfully completed in mid-October 2014 through a ‘Train the trainers’ model implemented by SIEC staff. The main topic was face to face voter education.

► **Radio production and media management.** This remained a priority focus of capacity building work within the communication and awareness team. In June 2014, EO staff received a training on audience surveys facilitated by Ben McNair, civic education and media adviser. This was followed by a second training on survey design and practical cases.

► **Assessment of voter awareness programmes.** In 2015 SECSIP commissioned a study to assess the impact of the Voter Awareness Programmes conducted in the lead up to the 2014 NGE which had been designed by EO with SECSIP support. The aim was to assess effectiveness of voter engagement and to gather information to improve voter awareness on key electoral issues. The field data collection took place in October and November 2015. The initial findings were presented in November to senior management of the EO and to advisers and international partners in Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) with a view to seek feedback which was then incorporated to the final report. This survey formed the basis for the 2016-2019 voter education strategy developed by Communications Awareness Team comprised of the SIEC’s official responsible for this area in partnership with UNDP SECSIP expert on civic and voter education. The link to the report: <https://drive.google.com/file/d/1KGxeOhWEqYgkFsDCmao8tvn2cNU7CfVT/view?usp=sharing>

Indicator 3.1.1: Percentage of electoral officials trained on civic education⁴⁴

Capacity building on civic education was included as a part of different trainings provided to the electoral officials during electoral cycle. The table below shows the modules included civic education/ relevant topics and number of person trained on those modules in the lead up to 2014 NGE and 2019 NGE.

⁴⁴ Means of verification: SIEC NGE 2019 report, SECSIP annual reports; training modules; training reports; newspaper coverage; voter education strategy.

Table 15: Electoral officials trained on civic/voter education

In the lead up to 2014 NGE	In the lead up to 2019 NGE
<p>Module on BVR Public Inquiry Manual (5-8 August 2014)</p> <p>Participants:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 10 Provincial Managers • 50 Revising Officers <p>Facilitated by EO Training Officer and SECSIP training expert</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 170 Assistant Revising Officers <p>Facilitated by Revising Officers (cascade modality)</p> <p>Out of 230 temporary staff engaged for BVR 26% received direct training by EO. Following a cascade modality, the Provincial Managers and Revising Officers conducted the training of their assistants (170).</p>	<p>Module on Awareness and Media Management (19 July -26 July 2018)</p> <p>Participants:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 10 Registration Managers • 50 Registration Officers <p>Facilitated by EO Senior voter awareness and media manager</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 322 Assistant Revising Officers <p>Facilitated by Revising Officers (cascade modality)</p> <p>Out of 382 temporary staff engaged for BVR 15.7% received training facilitated by the EO. Following a cascade modality, the Provincial Managers and Revising Officers conducted the training of their assistants (322).</p>
<p>Module on Public Awareness Role of Provincial Managers (22 - 24 September 2014)</p> <p>Participants:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 10 Election Managers, • 10 Provincial Accountants <p>Facilitated by EO Training Officer and SECSIP training expert.</p> <p>Out of 149 temporary staff (Provincial Managers, Accountants, Returning Officers and Assistant Returning Officers), 29% received training on this module.</p>	<p>Module on Media and Information on Ethics And Code of Conduct* (November 6 - 8, 2018)</p> <p><i>*Introduction of a 'Pledge' designed by SECSIP advisers to encourage integrity, discourage undue pressure from the public while fostering pride and accountability. Link to pledge https://drive.google.com/file/d/16PyiD-tX1_W7xf0eQyg09cKMUXYoceqG/view?usp=sharing</i></p> <p>Participants:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 10 Provincial Managers • 50 Revising Officers <p>Facilitated by EO Senior voter awareness and media manager and SECSIP national media consultant</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 322 Assistant Revising Officers <p>Facilitated by Revising Officers (cascade modality)</p> <p>Out of 382 temporary staff engaged for polling, 15.7% received training by the EO. Following a cascade modality, the Provincial Managers and Revising Officers conducted the training of their assistants (322)</p>
<p>Training on Returning Officers Role on Voter Awareness (29 September to 3 October 2014).</p> <p>Participants:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 50 Returning Officers (RO) • Recruitment of 155 volunteers as civic educators to raise awareness in local languages <p>Facilitated by the EO with SECSIP support.</p> <p>Out of 149 temporary staff (Provincial Manager, Accountant, Returning Officers and Assistant Returning Officers), 34% received training on this module. Following a cascade modality, the RO provided training to the civic educator volunteers.</p>	<p>Module on Media and Communication (25 -27 January 2019; 04-07 March 2019)</p> <p>Participants:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 10 Election Managers, • 50 Returning Officers, • 10 Accountants <p>It included the introduction of a "Pledge"</p> <p>Facilitated by EO Senior Voter Awareness and Media Manager and SECSIP Media Consultant</p> <p>Out of 220 temporary staff (Election Managers, Accountants, Returning Officers and Assistant Returning Officers), 31.8% received training from EO on this module.</p>
<p>Module on Voter Awareness (24 - 25 October 2014)</p> <p>This included a follow up assignment to be prepared within the next 2 weeks upon delivery of the training requiring the development of a voter awareness work plan and budget</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 79 Assistant Returning Officers (AROs) <p>Facilitated by EO with SECSIP support or by ROs.</p> <p>Out of 149 temporary staff (Provincial Manager, Accountant, Returning Officers and Assistant Returning Officers), 53% received training from EO on this module. Following a cascade modality, the Returning Officers then trained their assistants.</p>	<p>Module on Civic Education on Polling Day (5 February 2019)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 150 Assistant Returning Officers (49 women), <p>Facilitated by Returning Officers (cascade modality)</p> <p>Out of 220 temporary staff (Election Manager, Accountant, Returning Officers and Assistant Returning Officers), 68% were attended training on this module.</p>

The table below presents a comparison on civic and voter education activities implemented throughout the project implementation. The data is based on the findings of the 2 independent studies conducted in 2015 and 2019.

Table 16: Implementation status of civic and voter education

Period: 2013-2015	Period: 2016-2019
78,234 civic and voter education materials (2013-2014) distributed as reflected in table 14.	89,250 materials distributed (2018-2019) as reflected in table 13. 14% increase over those distributed ahead of 2014 NGE
3 CSOs engaged for voter awareness activities (SIDT, TSI and WISDM) on voter registration 150 civic educators visited every province before BVR. No collaboration with private sector.	15 CSOs engaged for face to face voter awareness activities. Reached 29 constituencies of 9 provinces and Honiara city. Private sector collaboration: Through SolRice, 110,000 voter registration brochures and 110,000 civic education booklets were distributed throughout the country.
Impact: 82% of respondents reported knowing that receiving money or gifts in exchange for a vote is not legal (2015 KAP survey)	Impact: 94% of respondents reported knowing that receiving money or gifts in exchange for a vote is not legal (2019 KAP survey)
56% of respondents reported encountering voter awareness messages over the past year through unaided recall	82.8% of respondents reported encountering voter awareness messages over the past year through unaided recall
82.28% of respondents know that the minimum voting age is 18 years old	84% of respondents know that the minimum voting age is 18 years old
When asked if women can be as good leaders as men, 81.23% of respondents agree or strongly agree	When asked if women can be as good leaders as men, 84% of respondents agree or strongly agree

Table 17: Progress against data reported in the baseline evaluation matrix included in the Voter Awareness strategy

Objective	Outcome	Metric	Baseline	Progress as per 2019 KAP
Knowledge	Voters understand registration requirements	82% know the voting age	> 82% know the voting age	84% know the voting age
		69% understand out of constituency registration	> 69% understand out of constituency registration	15.6% respondents registered using out-of-constituency. Of the respondents who utilised out-of-constituency registration, 73.0% felt that it was a useful mechanism
		0.85% Say that they did not register as a result of circumstances that were within their control	<0.85% Say that they did not register as a result of circumstances that were within their control	-
	All registered voters check their name on the PVR	89% check the list	>89% check the list	76.9% of respondents check the provisional list ⁴⁵
		47% understand that they can do something if they notice a mistake on the list	>47% understand that they can do something if they notice a mistake on the list	74.5% could tell at least one reason to do something if they notice a mistake on the list
	All registered voters know how to mark their ballot paper correctly	0.67% Invalid voting	<0.67% Invalid voting	0.29% Invalid voting
		76% can identify the three critical steps of how to vote	>76% can identify the three critical steps of how to vote	>76% can identify the three critical steps of how to vote
Motivation	Increase registration	85% Registration	>85% Registration	>85% registration
	Increase turn out	90% voter turn out	>90% voter turn out	96% voter turn out

⁴⁵ Registration in 2018 was an update to the voter rolls, comprising new voters and those who made updates to previous info registered in 2014. Therefore, respondents who had no changes to make to their registrations may have been less likely to check the voter lists compared to 2014.

Objective	Outcome	Metric	Baseline	Progress as per 2019 KAP
Confidence	Voters feel free to choose	88% say they feel free to vote for whomever they wanted	>88% say they feel free to vote for whomever they wanted	88.% reported that they feel free to vote
		78% say no one influenced their vote	>78% say no one influenced their vote	88.% reported that they made up their own mind who to vote for
	Voters believe that the vote is secret	76% say they know candidates are not allowed to find out whom they voted for	>76% say they know candidates are not allowed to find out whom they voted for	-
		30% say candidates find out anyway	<30% say candidates find out anyway	37.5% say candidates find out anyway
Participation		2.7% of voters vote for female candidates	>2.7% of voters vote for female candidates	4.5% of the total votes cast for female candidate
		81% say women are as skilled as men at being politicians	>81% say women are as skilled as men at being politicians	84% say women are as skilled as men at being politicians
Voter awareness programme	Reach	53% of respondents recall a voter awareness group coming to their community	> 53% of respondents recall a voter awareness group coming to their community	82.8% of all respondents reported encountering voter awareness messages over the past year



CSOs capacities' to provide voter education and coordinate with the SIEC enhanced and implementation of civic and voter activities increased

Indicator 3.1.2. Number of local networks implementing voter education strategies and progress made in finalizing strategies⁴⁶

The table below shows the engagement of SECSIP with diverse stakeholders (private, public, business enterprise, religious groups, CSOs) to implement voter education strategies.

⁴⁶ Means of verification: MOU; TORs; Activity completion reports; videos; drama scripts; annual reports; newspaper coverage; meeting notes with broadcast media.

Table 18: Number of local networks implementing voter education strategies and progress made in finalizing strategies

Entity/Sector	Contribution to implementation of 2016-2019 voter education strategy	Progress made
Civil Society Organisations (CSOs)	Face to face awareness actions through 15 CSOs: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Destiny Glocal • Friends of the City (FOC) • Guadalcanal Provincial Council of Women (GPCW) • Hearts of Hope (HOH) • Media Association of Solomon Islands (MASI) • Melanesian Board of Mission • National Council of Women (NCW) • Ngella Forum Trust Board (NFTB) • Nuo Theatre Trust Board (NTTB) • Solomon Islands Association of Learning Centres (SIALC) • Stages of Change (SOC) • Tawatana Community Conservation and Development Association (TCCDA) • Tefila, • Transparency Solomon Islands (TSI) • Village Technology Trust (VTT) 	In the lead up to 2014, only 3 CSOs were engaged for voter awareness on registration. From 2016 onwards, SECSIP initiated a micro-grant scheme and gradually established partnerships with 15 CSOs to implement voter education and civic awareness namely through face to face activities.

Entity/Sector	Contribution to implementation of 2016-2019 voter education strategy	Progress made
Faith based groups	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Melanesian Board of Mission (MBOM) • Kukum SSEC Church (Honiara) • Central United Church (Honiara) • Burns Creek Church (Honiara) • Tanagai Catholic Church (Honiara) • All Saints Anglican Church (Honiara) • St Alban Church 	<p>EO, with SECSIP support, built relationships with faith based groups to collaborate on actions for the dissemination of information and education of public in 2014. This was intensified from 2017 onwards and SECSIP media consultant and EO Senior Voter Awareness and Media Manager assisted by SECSIP graduates did regular awareness activities with religious groups until 2019 NGE.</p> <p>MBOM was formally engaged in 2018 through SECSIP micro-grant to conduct voter awareness.</p>
Youth representatives	<p>Pacific Youth Forum Against Corruptions of Solomon Islands (PYFAC)</p> <p>Video production and dissemination (Honiara main wharf, Western part of Honiara, Kakabona/Poha areas in the Northwest Guadalcanal)</p> <p>Via Mobile phone using 'share it' application, also uploaded on PYFACSI Facebook page and YouTube</p>	<p>In 2018, SECSIP engaged PYFACSI to produce 3 videos ahead of 2019 NGE.</p> <p>SECSIP also contracted DSE to employ youth enumerators to conduct KAP survey in 9 provinces in 2019. Some of them had worked as voter registration observers in 2018.</p> <p>SECSIP Adviser on women's political participation made 50 young fellow aware by facilitating a session on "Exercising Your Democratic Rights by Voting" on 16th October at SI Parliament (25 female, 1 PWD) from 50 SI constituencies.</p>
People with disabilities	Solomon Islands Association of People with Disabilities (SI PWD)	<p>SECSIP engaged SI Association of PWDs from 2018 onwards. The PWD Association supported voter leaflet distribution activity by inserting leaflets and voter education booklets into the self-adhesive envelopes adhered to 40lb bags of rice of SolRice.</p> <p>SECSIP organised a two-day awareness raising training for 22 PWDs (9 male) on 26 and 27 February. During this workshop, the Electoral Office provided voter awareness information to members of the association from different parts of Solomon Islands. It also provided an opportunity for the Electoral Office to receive information on the needs and challenges experienced by this segment of voters.</p>
Educational institutions	Schools project -Number of schools	<p>The project implemented two pilots in mid to late 2016 with the Ministry of Education. The School Election Project provided practical experience on the voting process for students in five schools, three in the capital and one each in Malaita and Waimapuru provinces.</p> <p>SECSIP, the Electoral Office and the Curriculum Division of MEHRD developed the training materials for Year 8 teachers and students. SECSIP also organized a student essay competition on Women's Leadership and Political Participation in partnership with the MEHRD which was implemented in 2016 and 2017-2018.</p>
Private enterprise	<p>SolRice.</p> <p>SECSIP signed a MOU in 2018 to launch this action.</p> <p>Private sector (rice distributor) which collaborated on 2 occasions with SECSIP in the distribution of civic and voter education materials across the country enhancing dissemination to remote locations</p>	<p>No similar initiative before 2018.</p> <p>Enhanced distribution of civic and voter education materials (220000 leaflets and booklets) to isolated communities in remote locations</p>
Media	<p>Media Association of Solomon Islands (MASI)</p> <p>Identification and design of capacity building actions on electoral related topics for media professionals</p> <p>SIBC– broadcast of commercials encouraging voter registration during FIFA</p> <p>Radio– radio drama, talk back shows, voter information programmes</p> <p>Solomon Telekom-broadcast of videos on how to choose my candidate, election offence. (produced by PYFAC with SECSIP support)</p>	<p>There was previous collaboration with MASI prior to the 2014 NGE. In 2017, the collaboration was intensified through the signature of a MOU between the EO, MASI and SECSIP.</p> <p>This led to increase the support to capacity building of media professionals and to plan and implement for the first time actions for media professionals based in the provinces (3 trainings)</p>




Indicator 3.2.1: Percentage of electoral officials trained on civic education.

Results and activities summary: Reported in the above section for result 3.1 and indicator 3.1.1

Result 4: Electoral and legal reform supported to contribute to a stronger Electoral Commission and PPC for increased citizen representation in the medium and long run⁴⁷

Result area	Achievement status	Main activities
SIEC and PPC legal capacities strengthened	Achievements in progress	4.1
Improvement of the approved electoral legislation	Substantially achieved	4.1

Key Results

Key results	
	<p>Legal capacity</p> <p>Support to the Electoral Reform Task Force as leading advisory body on the electoral reform package and on the drafting of 3 bills (new electoral and political parties' bills and the constitutional consequential amendments).</p>
	<p>Consultation</p> <p>2015 Regional conference "In Search for a new Election System in the Solomon Islands".</p> <p>2016 Two high level Dialogues on a new electoral system.</p> <p>Electoral reform consultations conducted in the 9 provinces (2016-2017).</p>
	<p>Capacity-building</p> <p>New Electoral Act adopted in 2018 expanding EMB responsibilities to include provincial and local elections, enabling continuous voter registration and pre-registration of citizens of 17 years of age passed in SI Parliament.</p> <p>9 political parties received foundation training.</p> <p>3 graduates working at PPC in the lead up to the 2019 NGE who provided key legal, research and training assistance.</p>

January 2016 – December 2019

The Electoral Reform Task Force (ERTF). This advisory body was comprised of representatives of the Office of the Prime Minister, Ministry of Home Affairs, Political Parties Commission (and Office of the Registrar of the Political Parties), Solomon Islands Electoral Commission (and Electoral Office). SECSIP CTA and bilateral advisers (ESSP) regularly participated in the meeting sessions of this advisory body providing support on technical issues. Established as a result of the Democratic Coalition for Change Government this advisory body identified the priority issues for the review of the electoral legal framework, provided an internal forum for discussion of issues concerning the review of the Electoral Act, Political Parties Integrity Act and consequential amendments to the Constitution and developed an inclusive and participatory nation-wide consultations plan to gather feedback from the electorate in support of the reform, and guide the drafting of the reform package.



Electoral reform issues identified

- ▶ **Workshop on electoral systems** (25-26 February 2016) which analyzed potential alternatives of a new electoral system to be considered for the eventual replacement of the FPTP system. The workshop was facilitated by two electoral experts from International IDEA who presented an overview of the characteristics of the main electoral systems highlighting their ascribed strengths and weaknesses with regard to representation, accountability, boundary delimitation, turnout, women's participation and other criteria. The opening was made by the Minister of Home Affairs, Hon. Manasseh Maelanga, in his capacity as Acting Prime Minister due to the absence of the PM.

⁴⁷ Means of verification: Annual Project Reports; contract with consultant (legal drafter).

Participants included the Speaker of Parliament/ Chairperson of SIEC Hon. Ajilon Nasiu, prospective Electoral Commissioner Ms. Taesi Sanga⁴⁸, the Registrar of the Office of the PPC Mr. Calvin Ziru, the A/CEO, Mr. Alphonsus Pero and EO senior officials. SECSIP contributed to the identification of issues, TORs and funding for the organisation of this workshop

- ▶ **White paper on Election Systems.** The main drafter of this paper was the ERTF representative of the Office of the Prime Minister (OPM), Mr. Moses Saitala with the support of the ERTF. It provided background information for the debate on possible options for elections systems. The paper was tabled in Parliament the last week of May 2016.
- ▶ **High level Dialogues on a new Electoral System** for the Solomon Islands. In August 2016 two Dialogues were held in Honiara on options for a new election system. These Dialogues were conceived as a follow-up action to the above-referred 'White Paper'. The first Dialogue with the Members of Parliament was held on 23 and 24 August. This was followed by the second one with leaders and executives of political parties on 25 and 26 August 2016. The Dialogues provided an opportunity to discuss the criteria for the design of electoral systems and to present their main features with their advantages and disadvantages. SECSIP engaged Prof. Andrew Ellis who was the main facilitator of the two Dialogues. UNDP SECSIP Senior Elections Expert, Carlos Valenzuela, also contributed to the Dialogue discussions.
- ▶ **Provincial consultations on the Electoral Reform.** The Electoral Reform Task Force developed a plan to conduct a nation-wide consultation to gather feedback from the citizenship on issues included in the proposed amendments of the electoral act and political parties' legislation including presenting options for a new election system. Some of the areas discussed during the provincial consultations included issues in connection with the operational capacity of the electoral authorities, the updating the electoral rolls, the access to electoral rolls for candidates and political parties, the campaign

period, the electoral expenses and the review of election offences. On the second day of each workshop, a mock election was conducted introducing the Limited Preferential Voting (LPV) system. The mock election was intended to increase participants' understanding of the LPV system, particularly with respect to the counting process to elect Members of Parliament. Members of the ERTF, EO senior officials and advisers visited the 9 provinces presenting the main aspects of the 'White Paper' and of the outcomes of the 2 Dialogues. The provincial consultation tour commenced in November 2016 and ended in May 2017 (table below shows the consultations provinces and dates). The final consultation with Honiara City Council had a turnout of 80 participants. Feedback from the consultation tour was gathered across all 9 provinces of the Solomon Islands and was utilized by the Electoral Reform Task Force to develop the 2nd White Paper on the electoral reform debated in Parliament in April 2017.

Table 19: Provincial consultations on the Electoral Reform

Place	Dates
Choiseul	28 -29 November 2016
Western	1 - 2 December 2-016
Malaita	5-6 December 2016
Central	13 -14 February 2017
Isabel	23 - 24 March 2017
Makira	11 - 12 April 2017
Rennel	20 - 21 April 2017
Temotu	26 - 27 April 2017
Guadalcanal	8- 9 May / 11 - 12 May 2017

⁴⁸ The formal appointment and oath taking ceremony of Ms. Taesi Sanga took place in March 2016.



Technical knowledge and capacities of ERTF, SIEC and PPC strengthened

- ▶ **Study on Limited Preferential Voting System.** At the request of the ERTF, SECSIP commissioned a research paper that enable knowledge enhancement of LPV system from the experience of neighbouring country Papua New Guinea with respect to its change of voting system from First Past The Post (FPTP) to Limited Preferential Voting (LPV) conducted in 2003 and how these lessons could be analyzed in the context of SI. Link to the report: https://drive.google.com/file/d/1urlCFEooTn_IQhpAoVcKCwau6OOonISsv/view?usp=sharing
 - ▶ **Engagement of a legislative drafter.** SECSIP engaged a legislative drafter who, under the guidance of the Electoral Reform Task Force, prepared the drafts of the Electoral Bill, the Political Parties Integrity (Amendment) Bill, and Constitution (Consequential Amendment) Bill. With a view to build on the continuity of the efforts and support already provided by the EU, UNDP SECSIP engaged Rupeni Nawaqakuta in September 2017 for this assignment to review and continue with the drafting of the Electoral Reform Bills that he had initiated under a previous EU contract. The engagement of this IC was an example of good coordination and no duplication of efforts amongst development partners. The Constitutional Amendment Act was passed by the National Parliament on 22 August 2018 and the new Electoral Act on 24 August 2018. The Acts entered into force on 7 and 25 September 2018 respectively.
 - ▶ **PPC consultations on political parties' legislation.** As part of UNDP SECSIP support to the reform, the project assisted the PPC in the organisation and logistics of the Consultations held during the last two weeks of August 2016 in Honiara. These consultations was the analyzed and made recommendations for the review of the political parties legislation (namely the PPIA) with a view to continue the strengthening of a multi-party system. The scope of these workshops included issues in connection possible measures concerning candidates contending as independents, women's political participation, political defection, formation of coalitions and resignation of MPs who had obtained a seat running as members of a political party.
 - ▶ **Annual Regional Conferences.** Participation in these fora provided an avenue to analyse various angles of the legal framework of political parties and its impact in the consolidation of democracy. It also contributed to the strengthening of south to south networks amongst key stakeholders.
- 2016: *Creating Political and Parliamentary Stability to catalyze development.* Two-day regional conference held in Nadi, Fiji on 27 and 28 June 2016. The delegation was comprised of Deputy Prime Minister, Members of Parliament, the Chair and one member of the Political Parties Commission, one representative of the EMB and one researcher. At the Panel on Political Reforms, lessons learnt and challenges from the Pacific, Sir Paul Tovua, Chairperson of the PPC, presented a paper on the Solomon Islands experience where he analyzed the impact of the introduction of the Political Parties Integrity Act in November 2014. Ms. Ruth Liloqula, member of the PPC, presented a paper on votes of no confidence and referred to the importance and challenges of this constitutional mechanism which enables Parliament to scrutinize the Government's performance.
 - 2017: *Does the Pacific Need Political Parties?* UNDP Pacific Office organized this Conference on "Does the Pacific Need Political Parties?" in Nadi, Fiji (19 to 20 September 2017) UNDP SECSIP supported the attendance and participation of staff of the Political Parties and Integrity Commission, Chairman of the Electoral Commission, and representatives of four political parties. Overall, this regional event provided an avenue for the exchange of information about political party best practices within Asia Pacific and enabled participants to share their country experiences in the development and challenges of respective political party systems within the region.
 - 2018: *Legal and Regulatory Frameworks for Political Parties.* SECSIP supported the organisation, identification and logistics for the participation of the Solomon Islands delegation in the Pacific Political Parties Conference (Vanuatu, 19-20 September 2018). The focus of this conference held during the pre-electoral period provided a timely opportunity on the challenges faced when developing subsidiary legislation with a view to their strengthening for the upcoming electoral events.
 - 2019: *Inclusiveness of Political Parties.* Recognizing the significance of the annual UNDP Pacific political parties' regional conferences, SECSIP raised the possibility of holding the event in Honiara in September 2019 (18 to 23 September 2019). The focus of this conference was inclusiveness and included topics related to engaging youth, women and minority groups. The holding of this event in Honiara after the 2019 NGE and provincial assembly elections provided a timely opportunity to political party executives, youth and women representatives to share experiences and suggest measures to continue building and consolidate democracy in the Pacific Region. SECSIP contributed to the concept and planning,

identification of participants of the Solomon Islands delegation and also provided administrative and logistical support. SECSIP experts contributed to the discussion on issues related to Temporary Special Measures (TSM) and PWD.

► **Political parties capacities enhanced.** SECSIP jointly with the ORPP developed the terms of reference to engage an international firm of consultants specialized in the area of good governance to deliver a foundation training for political parties. SECSIP identified and fund the engagement of Deveaux Consultants to design, develop and implement training actions for the strengthening of civic engagement of political parties and the promotion of the multi-party system. Nine (9) out of the thirteen (13) registered political parties benefited from the final module on provincial branch capacity issues, Training of Trainers & bi-lateral tailored discussions on mobilisation of resources, membership development, sustainability, party identity and outreach. Participants included limited female representation during trainings. This consultancy included two in-country missions, the first one in October 2016 and the second one carried out in February 2017. Deveaux Consultants facilitated capacity development trainings in Honiara on the following topics:

- Local branch development
- Party organisation
- Fundraising
- Communication and advocacy
- Strategic planning
- Campaign planning

► **Graduate Programme.** As identified by the PPC, SECSIP Graduate Programme recruited 3 graduates for the positions of legal, research and training assistants. The graduates made an important contribution to the implementation of the mandate in the lead up to the 2019 national general election, particularly with respect to the registration of political parties, the liaison with the Electoral Office and verification of candidates nominated by political parties and awareness actions related to the political parties legislation. The Graduate programme had a two-fold objective, to strengthen capacities of national institutions in the lead up to the 2019 NGE and build the capacity of young talented professionals with a view to be considered to be directly engaged by national institutions. It was a pleasing achievement that out of the three 3 graduates working for the PPC, 2 of them have been now recruited by the Prosecutor Services and a third graduate has been awarded an international scholarship to further her university studies in New Zealand.

► **Timely adoption of subsidiary legislation.** SECSIP contributed to the preparation of the subsidiary legislation via regulations and forms. This also included the regulations for revising the ballot draw procedures as well as regulations developing Section 69 of the Electoral Act on the obligation of all candidates who contested the national general election to file a Statement of Accounts within 90 days from the publication of the election results.

⁴⁹ See table 21 on participation on foundation training for political parties.

Table 20: Summary of foundation trainings for political parties

Registered Party (2014)	October 2016 Party Fundamentals Training	February 2017 Training of Trainers
Democratic Alliance Party (DAP)	√	√
Direct Development Party (DDP)	X	X
National Transformation Party (NTPSI)	√	√
Kadere ("Country") Party of Solomon Islands (KPSI)	√	X
New Nation Party (NNP)	√	√
Pan-Melanesian Congress Party (SI-PMCP)	X	X
Solomon Islands People First Party (PFP)	√	√
People's Alliance Party (PAP)	√	√
People's Progressive Party (PPP)	√	X (bilateral consultation only)
Solomon Islands Party for Rural Advancement (SIPRA)	√	X (bilateral consultation only)
Youth Owned Rural and Urban Party	√	X
Solomon Islands Democratic Party (SIDP)	√	√
United Democratic Party (UDP)	√	√



Electoral act review workshop June 2019.

With respect to forms, SECSIP presented a proposal which was endorsed by the SIEC, on the revision of administrative forms introducing for the first-time forms including fields for the identification of grounds for voter registration objections. These forms contributed to facilitate a more consistent and coherent decision-making process during the Public Hearings.

- ▶ **Issues for the review of the 2019 Electoral Act identified.** On 19 June 2019, a one-day workshop attended by Electoral Office staff, Elections Support System Programme (ESSP) advisers and SECSIP project staff was held in Honiara to review the EA 2018. The workshop resulted in collated a report outlining sections/clauses need to be reviewed/discussed with new MPs.

July 2013 – December 2015

- ▶ Legal changes to introduce the BVR system timely adopted. SECSIP Legal Expert (short-term IC) Victoria Stewart Jolly conducted in 2014 an analysis of the electoral legal framework and identifying and providing recommendations on the legal adjustments needed for the introduction of the BVR Advisory body on electoral reform.
- ▶ Adoption of preparatory steps to establish an advisory electoral reform body. The formation of the coalition government as a result of the 2014 NGE and its identification of priorities which included the analysis and review of the electoral system, put the basis for the setting of a collective interdepartmental advisory body to analyze and provide guidance on the reform efforts. To this end, an Electoral Reform Task Force was de facto established in 2015 with the aim of identifying electoral reform issues. As previously referred, the Electoral Task Reform was

formally established in 2016. SECSIP consistently made contributions to this Task Force on areas including the drafting of cabinet papers on the mandate and composition of the Task Force and on the analysis of the expert reports and for the preparation of the Fact Finding Mission on Election Systems.

- ▶ Fora to discuss the electoral systems provided. The Electoral system seminar “In Search for a new Election System in the Solomon Islands” (May 2015) provided a forum to understand and discuss the opportunities, challenges and implications of the design of an election system. The feature address was delivered by the Prime Minister of the Solomon Islands, H.E. Hon. Manasseh Sogavare. International experts Adhy Aman, Andrew Ellis, Jon Fraenkel, and Ben Reilly were invited to make presentations on Electoral System Advantages and Disadvantages, Criteria for Electoral Design, Evaluation of Electoral Systems, Electoral Systems and the Participation on Women in Parliament. There were also several panel discussions as well as a simulation that provided a practical opportunity for comparing the possible outcomes of various electoral systems. This presented various options and resulted in the issuance of recommendations with a view to attain a more inclusive and participatory election system.

Indicator 4.1.1. Number of electoral legal instruments SIEC, PPC and other relevant authorities must ensure compliance with⁵⁰

⁵⁰ Means of verification: copies of reviewed acts; annual reports; meeting notes.

Table 21: Number of legal electoral instruments reformed/amended

Electoral legal framework	Electoral authority ensuring compliance
1. The Constitution of Solomon Islands of 1978 <i>Amended by Constitution Amendment Electoral Reform Act No.5 of 2018</i> Sections 47, 48, 49, 51, 54, 55, 56, 57, 57A, 58	Solomon Islands Electoral Commission (SIEC) Chief Electoral Officer (CEO) Electoral Office (EO)
2. Electoral Act 2018 (No. 6 of 2018) <i>Pursuant to EA 2018 Section 137, the EA 2018 repealed the National Parliament Electoral Provisions Act and Section 143 provided for the consequential amendments in particular sections of the Political Parties Integrity Act 2014 (PPIA), Honiara City Act 1999, Provincial Government Act 1997 and Public Holydays Act</i>	SIEC CEO Electoral Office Electoral Officials ⁵¹
3. Adoption of Electoral Regulations 2018 (LN 82 of 2018) by the SIEC (the " <i>principal Regulations</i> ") later amended by <i>Electoral (Amendment) Regulations 2019</i>	SIEC CEO Electoral Office Electoral Officials
4. Provincial Government Act 1997 <i>2019 Amendment of the Provincial Government (Election) Regulations 2010 (upon assumption of responsibility for provincial assembly elections by the Electoral Office which took place on 1 Nov. 2019.</i>	Provincial Government (until 1 Nov. 2019 with respect to provincial assembly elections) SIEC CEO Electoral Office Electoral Officials
5. Political Parties Integrity Act 2014 (amendment bill drafted) SECSIP supported the PPC consultations on the review of the PPIA. At the request of the PPC, SECSIP engaged a legislative drafter who prepared a bill to amend the PPIA which has not yet been debated in Parliament.	Political Parties Commission Office of the Registrar of the Political Parties Commission Registrar of the Political Parties Commission

Table 22: Changes to the electoral legal framework

Issues under consideration during electoral reform	Relevant legal provisions and whether changes have been adopted
Electoral system	No changes adopted Section 6 of 2018 EA restates the First Past the Post System
Concept of ordinarily resident	2018 EA introduced Section 4 on 'the meaning of ordinarily resident' ⁵² Observation: with a view to streamline the meaning of ordinarily resident, SIEC has prepared a paper aiming to reduce the vagueness of Section 4
Meaning of campaign activity	Introduced by Sections 5 and 62 of the 2018 EA
Functions and powers of the Electoral Commission, Chief Electoral Officer and Electoral Office	Amendment of Section 57 of the Constitution and addition of new Section 57A on the Chief Electoral Officer. The referred provisions are developed the relevant provisions under Part 3, Divisions 1, 2 and 3 of the 2018 EA Related changes introduced by the reform had been previously discussed with the citizenship during the nation-wide consultations: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SIEC composition (S57of CT). To include CEO as a non-voting member and qualification and disqualification criteria. • Gender. Appointment of SIEC members is provided under Section 57 of the Constitution which now requires that at least 1 member of the Commission must be a woman • Mandate Extension. Section 12 of 2018 EA provides for the SIEC to carry out the registration of electors and conduct of provincial assembly elections • Financial Autonomy. Section 20 of 2018 EA provides for EO to have its head of revenue and expenditure in the national budget
Voter registration	2018 EA Part 4 Division 1 Section 31 provides that the Commission must set a period for registration before each general election and 'at any other time it considers appropriate' which could enable the introduction of a continuous voter registration system. Pre-registration of young persons is introduced in part 4 Division 5 (not in force during 2018 registration campaign)
Ballot paper	As per Section 74 of the 2018 EA the ballot paper must be in form 3. The ballot paper does not include any serial number enhancing the principle of secrecy of the vote. Section 77 of the 2018 EA introduced the requirement of photographs of candidates facilitating identification by the electorate





⁵¹ Pursuant to Division 4 of 2018 EA electoral officials include registration managers, registration officers and assistants, revising officers and assistants, election managers, returning officers and assistants and presiding officers and polling assistants.

⁵² The 2018 EA entered into force on 25 September 2018 with the exception of Sections 4, 12, Division 5 of Part 4 and Section 107(2).

Result 5: Increased participation of women in politics and decision making, and improved representation of women in Parliament

Result area	Achievement status	Main activities
SIEC, national authorities and CSOs' capacities to advocate for women's leadership and their participation in politics and decision making strengthened	Achievement in progress	5.1, 5.2

Key results

Key results	
	<p>Gender sensitization</p> <p>All EO permanent staff trained on gender mainstreaming. Regional Workshop on Women Leadership held with presentations of EO senior officials. Women support network established.</p>
	<p>Capacity-building</p> <p>3 Women candidate schools attended by a total of 51 women and men (2 schools for 2019 NGE, 1 school for provincial assembly elections). Improved capacities of intending women candidates and their male supporters.</p>
<p>2010 0</p>	<p>In 2019, 3 women MPs elected for the first time in Solomon Islands (In 2014 NGE, only 1 woman was elected).</p>
<p>2014 </p>	<p>Percentage of votes received by women in 2019 NGE (4.49%) increased in comparison with 2014 NGE (2.72%).</p>
<p>2019 </p>	



Capacities of the SIEC, PPC national authorities and CSOs to advocate for women's participation in politics and decision making strengthened

Support to gender mainstreaming is addressed throughout all areas of project implementation contributing to enhance awareness of national authorities on women's political participation in voter registration, operations, media and legal aspects. To reflect the importance and efforts dedicated to support women's political participation, the project result structure was amended to include a fifth activity focusing on women's political participation, decision-making and leadership.

January 2016 – December 2019

Capacities on issues related to women and elections enhanced.

► **South to south study visit.** In 2016, SECSIP organized and funded the study visit to Samoa of Ms. Madlyn Lagusu, EO Senior Training Officer and also the Gender Focal Point of the Electoral Office during

the Samoa electoral period. An important focus of her assignment was to analyze the practical aspects of the implementation of the Temporary Special Measures that resulted out of the Samoa electoral legislative reform which established a minimum of 5 NP seats for women. Upon her return, Ms. Madlyn Lagusu also conducted an analysis of Samoa lead-up to the election training activities with a view to a more gender sensitive and inclusive approach. The findings and recommendations were shared with the EO and ORPPP staff on a lessons learned workshop held on 18 March 2016.

- **Gender Equality and Women's Development Capacity Building.** This workshop was organized by MWYFA (26 May 2016). SECSIP provided the linkages between elections and support towards gender advocacy in the areas of leadership and political participation for MWYFA desk officers.
- **'Empowering Women and Strengthening Political Parties.'** This three-day workshop (28-30 March 2017) held in Honiara organised by UNDP Pacific Office with SECSIP support served to introduce Solomon Islands' gender policies and explored effective strategies for the empowerment of

women and political parties. This involved consultations with political party executives of the registered parties as well as with the Political Parties Commission. SECSIP Senior Elections Adviser Mr. Carlos Valenzuela facilitated a module on 'Women & Elections in the Solomon Islands, options to enhance their role' providing an analysis and recommendations in view of the envisaged legislative reform to enhance women's leadership and political participation. As a follow up action the political parties representatives expressed their commitment to commence an exercise to assess their manifestos in terms of gender sensitiveness and gender mainstream proposals.

- ▶ **Women's leadership and political participation in 10 selected constituencies of Solomon Islands.** SECSIP commissioned this research study on support to the full incorporation of women as political leaders and candidates. The findings of the study contributed to a better understanding of the factors that inhibit and enable women's political representation within target constituencies. The research was comprised of a desk review and key informant interviews involving an historical analysis on voting practices in constituencies as they relate to women candidates, the type of voters inclinations with respect to the vote for women candidates and to identify significant factors in limiting or enabling women's electoral success. The research findings were validated with key stakeholders and shaped into both short-term programming interventions, as well as long term strategic planning. Link: <https://drive.google.com/file/d/1CZGQ0EbR7pnkAt9nNa783yXnLRu5Wvqx/view?usp=sharing>

- ▶ **Strategic Planning Workshop.** The research findings and proposals were discussed in a workshop with women leaders held at the end of July 2018. Its objective was to validate and interpret the findings and to identify possible practical actions for the improvement of women's leadership and political representation in the Solomon Islands. There were 36 participants comprising 4 men, 6 aspiring women candidates, 5 young women and women leader's from national women's organisations - Solomon Islands National Council of Women, YWCA, Women's Rights Action Movement (WRAM), Women's Development Division (WDD) of the Ministry of Women, Youth, Children and Family Affairs, Young Women's Parliamentary Group (YWPG) and the rural based West Are Are Rokotanikeni Association (WARA). Representatives from the Development Services Exchange (DSE) (national umbrella organisation coordinating CSOs), Oxfam, SIEC, Honiara City Council, ORPP, Strongim Bisnis, the Guadalcanal Provincial Council of Women, Vois Blong Mere Solomon, Plan International as well as media, UN Women and UNDP were also in attendance. The workshop identified short term activities to be prioritized with SECSIP's support for the upcoming National and Provincial Elections the training of women candidates, and Resource Support. Another positive outcome of the workshop was the agreement to set up of the Women's Leadership and Support Network.
- ▶ **Media.** On average 34 journalists (total 204 persons through 6 programs, some participants attended more than one training) were trained on fair and credible reporting of electoral issues with particular focus on gender equality for candidates



EU Delegation Attachée Ms. Elena Méndez-Adalid presenting a certificate to a woman leader, Crispin Fititei from Makira.



Launching of the 1st candidate school in Feb.2019 with Permanent Secretary of Ministry of Justice and Legal Affairs Ms. Ethel Sigimanu and UNDP Country Manager Anna Chernyshova (standing).

during media trainings conducted in 2018 and 2019. The trainings were facilitated by the EO officials and SECSIP advisers in Honiara and in Malaita province facilitated by SECSIP Advisers on Women's Leadership and Political Participation and on Media.

► **Action plan 2018-2019 to encourage women leadership and political participation.** This plan was developed by SECSIP Senior Elections Adviser Mr. Carlos Valenzuela taking into account the findings and recommendations of the previously referred Research on Women Leadership and Political Participation. The plan was based on 3 premises:

- a. Need for long term nature of promotion of women political participation;
- b. Recognition of positive effects of short-term actions if framed within a long-term perspective;
- c. Multi-layered approach, dealing simultaneously with various lines of action which include capacity building (pre-nomination and post-nomination trainings), working with media and resource support.

The plan adopted a three-phase approach (pre-nomination, nomination and post-election) prioritizing activities to contribute to the improvement of women's leadership and political skills for national and provincial elections and the continuity of support actions in the longer term to build and consolidate results.

► **High level Regional Women's Leadership Workshop.** This four-day workshop held in August 2018 was attended by 60 national and international women leaders from the Pacific region including former Prime Minister of New Zealand, Ms. Helen

Clark, and other leaders such as Dame Carol Kidu from Papua New Guinea and Hon. Salote Rarodro from Fiji. The workshop connected participants with regional and international women political leaders to build their confidence to stand for election. Discussions included issues related to democracy and the regulatory framework for elections facilitated by EO staff, women public leadership at various levels and general aspects of women's confidence building and empowerment. Ms. Clark delivered a keynote address on "Inclusion and equality: Why women's political leadership matters". The presence of these women leaders was very much appreciated by the group of Solomon Islands participants (included intending women candidates for the 2019 NGE) who provided their views on women challenges in the political arena. International Development Partners from the European Union, the Australian High Commission and New Zealand also participated in the working sessions and presented the certificates to the participants.

► **Training for Women Leaders and aspiring women candidates (December 2018).** The workshop provided information on the concepts and principles of leadership in the political space and within communities, the electoral legal framework, the administration structure and key institutions that support Solomon Islands democracy. It also included practical sessions on confidence building and public speaking for women leaders. There were seventeen (17) participants, including 50% aspiring women candidates and the other participants being Presidents of Provincial Councils of Women and women leaders from the national women's organisations and women leadership advocates.

- ▶ **Candidate schools.** Ahead of NGE 2019 and as part of a multi-layered approach to encourage and support women political participation, SECSIP organized two candidate schools for women candidates for national and provincial assembly elections. The first candidate school (25 Feb - 1 March 2019), was attended by NGE nominated women candidates and male supporters. A total of 15 women candidates and 15 male supporters participated throughout the one-week training which included presentations from the EO senior staff focusing on the electoral procedures. Following the successful completion of this first candidate school, SECSIP organized a second school (4 - 8 March 2019) for 19 women intending to run for the 2019 provincial assembly elections.

This capacity building initiative ended on the International Women’s Day. Ministry of Justice and Legal Affairs Permanent Secretary Ms. Ethel Sigimanu and UNDP Country Manager Ms. Anna Chernyshova addressed the participants emphasizing their role as women leaders.

Both candidate schools were facilitated by an international consultant with expertise on gender and women leadership and had a content designed according to the findings of SECSIP Research on Women’s Leadership and taking into account the feedback provided by women candidates during the 2018 high level regional women leadership workshop different gatherings of women leaders.



Ministry of Justice and Legal Affairs Permanent Secretary Ms. Ethel Sigimanu presenting a certificate to the National Council of Women’s Representative at the closing of the Candidate Schools

- ▶ **2019 Follow up capacity building initiatives.** SECSIP facilitated training for 16 women candidates running for provincial assemblies’ elections in Isabel, Malaita, Guadalcanal and the Central Provinces. The participants received a similar training than those attending the candidate schools with adjustments with respect to the legal framework on the Provincial Government Act and provincial assembly electoral regulations. SECSIP Women Leadership Adviser also provided one to one coaching to these candidates on how to address challenges during the campaign period.
- ▶ **Individual training sessions for Makira women candidates.** In the lead up to the East Makira by-election held on 11 Dec 2019, SECSIP organized and facilitated individual training sessions for each of the 2 women candidates running for this parliamentary seat. As a result of this by-election, a third woman member of Parliament, Hon. Lily Maefai, was elected. She secured 3371 votes and her nearest contestant, a former MP for the East Makira constituency, received a total of 1196 votes. The other woman candidate, Rose Murray, obtained a third position out of 9 candidates.
- ▶ **Women candidates’ resource centres.** The project established four resource centres in Malaita, Makira, Isabel provinces and in Honiara city for women candidates in NGE 2019 and provincial assembly elections. This enhanced women candidate’s access to office equipment and services including design of campaign materials, printing, photocopying and access to electoral legislation and other relevant information. The resource centers were established in collaboration with four hosting entities (Isabel, Malaita and Makira Provincial Councils of Women and YMCA) which provided the office space. SECSIP provided IT equipment (laptops, printers, internet connection etc.) and other necessary materials including generators to make these centers fully operative and also trained 11 people (10 women) on how to use this equipment. Statements of Intent defining the framework of collaboration and attaching guidelines on the use of the resource centres were signed by UNDP Country Manager and representatives of the collaborating entities on 8 March during the closing ceremony of the second women candidate school. On 23 July 2019, SECSIP hosted an event to mark the hand-over of the office equipment provided to women resource centres to the hosting entities.
- ▶ **Support to Female MPs.** SECSIP Advisor on Women’s Leadership and Political Participation provided advice (last quarter of 2019) to Hon. Lanelle



Ceremony of the transfer of equipment to entities hosting candidate resource centres & marking the launching of Outstanding Women initiative, Honiara, July 2019.

Tanangada (at the time Minister for MWYCFA), assisting in the preparation of the Minister’s intervention as a keynote speaker on “*why should women participate in political leadership forum?*”. This discussion held at the Auditorium in Honiara was attended by approximately 100 participants. SECSIP Adviser also provided a set of subjects on gender policies and the situation of women in Solomon Islands to support another presentation of the Minister at a Brisbane Conference.

- ▶ **Advice on TSM.** SECSIP CTA and Adviser on Women Leadership and Political Participation Ms. Afu Billy provided technical expertise to the TSM Task Force led by the MWYFA. SECSIP Adviser also provided technical expertise to the newly formed provincial government of Western Province on the introduction of TSM at its provincial assembly.



Awareness on women’s leadership enhanced

- ▶ **Awareness raised with youth and teachers.** In 2016, SECSIP in conjunction with the Ministry of Education, Human Resource and Development and EO Senior Management designed and implemented an ‘Essay Competition on Women’s Political Participation’. The competition was conceived as a way for addressing issues relating to women’s leadership and political participation and to provide an avenue for the expression of ideas from students and teachers. An Award Ceremony broadcasted by SIBC was held on 24 October 2016 (UN Day commemorating the 71st anniversary of entry into force of the UN Charter in 1945) during

which HE the PM Hon. Manasseh Sogavare, was the key-note speaker. A booklet with the winning essays and information on the competition concept and process was published in 2017 and distributed to schools, Members of Parliament, Governmental Offices and CSOs. <https://drive.google.com/file/d/1dBKuuvk2GSyTpmBpZbrjsVMr8NxvjGey/view?usp=sharing>



EU Ambassador HE Leonidas Tezapsidis providing a certificate to a winner.

In 2017-2018 to engage participants not confident to express their ideas in an essay form all participants were provided the possibility of presenting their ideas either in a poster/artwork modality or in an essay. This edition was officially launched in Buala, Isabel on 13 October 2017. Information and materials were sent to all secondary schools in the country across the

10 provinces including Honiara town. A total of 170 participants (including students and teachers, 97 female participants) benefited from this activity. An Award Ceremony was held on 5 April 2018. HE EU Ambassador HE Leonidas Tezapsidis provided his remarks and presented the awards to the senior student category winners. Quoting poster winner Rowena Morgan with her artwork 'break a barrier, raise a nation', the Ambassador expressed his support towards an inclusive society where both men and women work together to effectively overcome barriers and obstacles to lead the progress of their country. The Australian High Commissioner, HE Roderick Brazier presented the awards to the secondary school teachers and made remarks on the importance of secondary school teachers as pillars of the society and their influence to motivate and encourage future leaders.



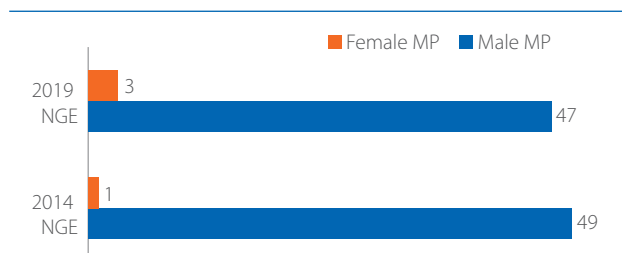
Impact assessment

Reflection workshop with NGE women candidates.

A month after the 2019 NGE a workshop attended by 12 female candidates who had contested in 11 constituencies in 5 provinces (Guadalcanal, Choiseul, Malaita, Makira and Isabel) and in Honiara City was held to reflect on their NGE experiences and develop lessons learned for future candidacies. The workshop also provided SECSIP with the opportunity to gather feedback on project support and recommendations for future assistance. The participants recommendations to SECSIP emphasized the need for the continuity of civic education including gender awareness and support for women's leadership throughout the electoral cycle and to prioritize capacity building on policy and legislation.

Solomon Islands (SI) parliament has now three women MPs (2 elected directly in NGE and 1 in by-election) which is a milestone for women in the history of SI.

Chart 3: Distribution of MPs by gender in December 2014 and December 2019 (after NGE and East Makira by-election)



In 2019 NGE, twenty-six (26) women candidates (representing a 7.8% of the total of 331 candidates) contested for 9 provinces (except Rennell and Bellona). Seventeen

(17) of these women candidates were affiliated to political parties and nine (9) ran as independents. While the number of female candidates remained the same (26) as in 2014, Seven (7) of these women candidates had also participated in 2014 NGE. As reflected in below table, the percentage of electors who voted for women candidates in 2019 (4.49%) experienced an increase over the votes received by women candidates in 2014 (2.72%). The table also compares the number of women securing more than 50% or with brackets of received votes in between 30% to 50% of the votes cast in the relevant constituencies.

Table 23: Votes cast for women candidates in 2019 NGE

Particulars	2014 NGE	2019 NGE
Votes received by women candidates	7,043	13,935
% of total votes casted for women candidates	2.72%	4.49%
Nominated women candidates	26	26
Winner candidates (women)	1	2 +1*
Women candidates with >50% votes	0	1 +1*
Candidates with 30-50%	0	3
Candidates with 20-30%	1	1
Candidates with 10-20%	4	1
Candidates with <10%	21	20
Candidates contested in previous NGE	7	

* The female candidate who won the seat in the East Makira by-election held in 11 Dec 2019 secured more than 50% of the votes.



Capacity enhancement

July 2013 – December 2015

- Rural women. SECSIP engaged an IC with expertise on gender mainstreaming in September 2014. Her deliverables included to facilitate trainings to 50 women and men each in Munda (which included rural women and men from Western Province islands) and in Honiara (which included women and men from various Guadalcanal locations). Traditionally marginalised rural groups of women were provided a non-judgmental space to improve their understanding of the electoral processes and the importance of their participation.



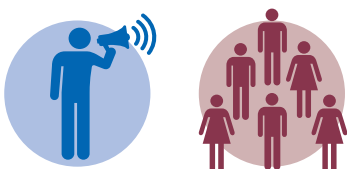
EU Ambassador Leonidas Tezapsidis addressing the participants of the 2015 regional conference participants.

- b. Journalists. SECSIP Adviser also facilitated a half-day training on gender sensitive reporting with journalists from the written and audiovisual media in Honiara.
- c. Intending women candidates' workshop. Participants were briefed on the candidate nomination process and provided them information on electoral procedures. This activity was attended by 25 intending women candidates and it was facilitated by SECSIP Gender Adviser at Heritage Park Hotel on 16 October 2014.
- d. Assistant Returning Officers. SECSIP Gender IC also facilitated a one-day training of 79 AROs (3 women) in Western province which included a special session on women's political participation.
- e. Mentoring of EO Focal Point. In 2015, SECSIP in consultation with the senior management of the Electoral Office identified and mentored one of the Electoral Office staff members (the Training Officer Ms. Madlyn Lagusu) as Gender Focal point.
- f. Gender sensitization of EO staff. Gender awareness sessions jointly were organized and facilitated by the EO focal point and SECSIP IC held in Honiara (September and October 2015) and in the provinces during the month of November.

importance of women's participation in electoral procedures. This resulted in the inclusion of female characters with key electoral responsibilities, for example the face of a female presiding officer (instead of a male) in the "how-to-vote" poster.

► **Regional Conference on Women's Leadership and Political Participation.** This conference (Honiara, 2 - 4 June 2015) was organized by the Political Parties Commission with technical and logistical support from SECSIP in association with EU Delegation Office in Honiara, the Electoral Office and the UN Women and Young Women's Parliamentary Group. Participants included national experts from Honiara, Temotu, Isabel, Malaita, Western Province and regional professionals from Fiji, Vanuatu, Samoa and PNG (including the Autonomous Government of Bougainville). A booklet on the reflections and recommendations shared by the participants was produced by SECSIP and distributed to Members of Parliament, intending women candidates and civil society representatives. Press release link: <https://www.solomonstarnews.com/index.php/features/women/item/7175-si-to-host-women-s-regional-conference>

Indicator 5.1.1: Number of staff of SIEC, PPC and civil society organisations are trained to advocate for women in politics⁵³



Awareness on women's leadership enhanced

► **Gender sensitive materials.** With the support of SECSIP, voter education materials were developed with inclusive illustrations highlighting the

⁵³ Means of verification: Training module and reports; annual reports; press release; newspaper coverage; pictures; workshop reports.

Table 24: Capacity building support actions to SIEC/EO, PPC, CSOs

Year	Beneficiary institutions	Capacity building actions/events and participants
2014	EO	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Gender training for 79 AROs (3 women) in Western province. Gender sensitive reporting training. Session with 10 Election Managers on the necessity of making the electoral process free of any form of discrimination, prejudice and importance of having more women in elections management.
2014	Others (women candidates)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Training for 25 women candidates, (Honiara co-facilitated by EO and SECSIP).
2015	EO, ORPP & PPC, Political Parties, Civil Society	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Regional Conference on Women's Leadership and Political Participation, (Honiara, 2 to 4 June 2015) 80 participants including SIEC & PPC Commissioners, EO staff, Members of Parliament from the Pacific countries.
2015	EO staff	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Assessment of EMB staff (8 permanent) and adviser's needs and their understanding of gender-related issues conducted by SECSIP Gender Adviser. Prepared and facilitated a two-day workshop on gender equality and gender mainstreaming for all EO staff and advisers (held on 15-16 September 2015).
2015	EO, ORPP, CSOs, Ministry, Donors, Political Parties	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Workshops on possible gender and social inclusion actions in view of the prospective legal reform. Participants (average 12) from EO, ORPP staff and also attended by representatives of political parties, the MWYFA, donor agencies and civil society organisations (October 2015).
2015	PPC, Media, Ministry	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pacific Regional Conference on TSM in the Pacific, Papua New Guinea (23-24 November 2015). SECSIP supported the participation of SI 7 delegates.
2015	CSOs/Women organisations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> EO discussions in November 2015 (EO Gender Focal Point Madllyn Lagusu and SECSIP IC Navanita hBhat-tacharia on plans targeting women's leadership and gender awareness with women's organisations and leaders in four provinces (Isabel, Malaita, Guadalcanal and Western Province).
2016	SIEC/EO	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Study visit to Samoa (March 2016) followed by lessons learned workshop (8 staff from EO and PPC Commissioners & Registrar). EO Senior Training Officer, Ms. Madlyn Lagusu.
2016	MWYFA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Gender Equality and Women's Development Capacity Building Workshop (26 May 2016). Participants: 47 MWYFA desk officers attended this event.
2016	PPC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Regional Empowering Women and Strengthening of Political Parties Workshop (organized by UNDP Pacific Office in Honiara in Nov. 2016). Approximately 40 participants (6 women).
2017	PPC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Workshop on 'Empowering Women and Strengthening Political Parties' (28 to 30 March 2017). Modules on Women & Elections in the Solomon Islands & options to enhance their role facilitated by SECSIP Senior Elections Adviser Mr. Carlos Valenzuela. Participants: approximately 35 (5 women) from political party executives, PPC.
2017	MEHRD Schools	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lessons learned on secondary school competition on Women's Leadership and Political Participation (22 March 2017). 29 Participants (7 female) including Education Officers, School Principals, Head of School departments and teachers.
2017	CSOs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Four (4) civil society organisations –Vois Blong Mere Solomons (VBM), Village Technology Trust (VTT), Guadalcanal Council of Women (GCW), and the Solomon Islands National Council of Women (SI NCW) received small grants to promote women leadership and political participation. Tefila: Trained 50 women leaders, each to conduct 1 community level awareness talk, 4 school visits. VBM: 60 radio spots, 24 weekly radio programmes, 30 women trained on transformational leadership, and did mentoring for 10 women intending candidates. VTT: Discussions with 18 community Matangi members (15 women) and training of women on film-making to produce video on women leadership and education. GCW: Gender awareness & motivation talks for females to run for office in 2019.
2016 2017 2018	Schools	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Women's leadership awareness with educators & students in connection with poster and essay competition: awareness-raising activities conducted in East Guadalcanal in the Weather coast area. 765 participants of four (4) schools (Avuavu Provincial Secondary, Makaruka, Kopiu and Potau Community High School) Information/materials sent to 250 secondary schools Competition entries: 41 (2016) and 170 (2017-2018) from students and teachers.
2018	PPC, EO, Donors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Workshop on developing strategic plan to increase women participation in NGE (25 to 26 July, Honiara). 45 participants including EO staff 2 EO staff).
2018	CSOs, PPC, EO, women leaders	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A four-day National Women's Leadership Workshop, 21-24 August 2018. 60 national and international women leaders from the Pacific region.

Year	Beneficiary institutions	Capacity building actions/events and participants
2018	Women leaders, EO, PPC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 4-day capacity building workshop for SI women leaders (December 2018). 35 Solomon Islands women leaders (24 intending NGE candidates).
2018	Other Youth Parliament	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> “Exercising Your Democratic Rights by Voting” facilitated by SECSIP Adviser on women’s political participation (16th October at SI Parliament). Participants: youth groups representatives (25 female, 1 PWD) from the 50 SI constituencies.
2018	PPC, EO, Women leaders	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Women Support Network (WSN) Established on September 2018 – present.
2019	Women candidates & male supporters	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Two candidate schools (25 February to 1 March 2019; 4-8 March 2019). A total of 15 women candidates and 15 male supporters participated throughout in the first one-week training. 19 women intending to run for the 2019 elections for provincial assemblies attended in the second school. Candidate school trainings for 16 women candidates running for provincial assemblies’ elections in Isabel, Malaita, Guadalcanal and the Central Provinces Individual trainings for 2 female candidates running for the East Makira bye election.
2019	PPC, EO	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Regional Political Party’s Conference (18-23 Sept 2019). Regional political party members, MPs and CS activists attended the first two days discussion. Two days SI discussions on the political party’s legislation and review of PPIA organized by PPC. Participants 35 to 40.
2019	Visits to Provincial Council of Women & Honiara City Council,	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> SECSIP Women’s Political Participation Adviser visited 8 Provincial Councils of Women 8 provinces of the country (Guadalcanal, Malaita, Makira, Western, Isabel, Temotu, Choiseul, Renbell) with Honiara City Council/ YWCA to jointly develop OW plans and timelines and conduct gender awareness mentoring. Average number of meetings was 10 in each province (including premiers, provincial secretaries, provincial ministers for women, women development division officers, women organisations, church women groups, traditional leaders, DPWD, CSOs)..



Achievements in terms of legislative review and drafting in relation to women's leadership and participation in political life

January 2016 – December 2019

► **Policy on Gender and Social Inclusion.** SECSIP developed in consultation with the Electoral Office this policy with a view to support the efforts of the Electoral Office to enhance equality and inclusive participation in the electoral processes in Solomon Islands. Acknowledging that gender mainstreaming and social inclusion are long-term processes, the Policy proposes a road map identifying actions and a proposed timeline to make progress in these areas.

► **Consultations and feedback on gender related aspects for the legislative review.**

a. Provincial consultations on the Electoral Reform. As referred under Result 4. SECSIP supported the nation-wide consultations that took place from November 2016 to May 2017. In each of the provinces, a group of a minimum of 50 participants including community leaders, representatives of women and youth groups, civil society organisations and NGOs and members of the provincial assembly were in attendance. The presentations

included issues on voting systems and Temporary Special Measures establishing a requirement for a minimum number of women to be members of the Electoral Commission.

b. Feedback from women leaders after 2019 NGE. SECSIP organised a reflection workshop on 15 May in Honiara which was attended by 12 NGE women candidates who contested in 12 constituencies in Guadalcanal, Choiseul, Malaita, Makira and Isabel provinces and Honiara. The participants provided several recommendations related to policy and legislation, future role of SECSIP and women based organisations to be taken into account in policy making and project support to create enabling environment for women political leadership.

► **Women support network (WSN).** Under the guidance of SECSIP national adviser on Women's Leadership and Political Participation, a women support network was established in September 2018 as a forum to discuss, share information on the electoral legal reform and to plan and facilitate events to advocate and encourage women's political participation. The Chairperson of the Political Parties Commission and member of the Electoral Commission, Ms. Taesi Sanga, has been chairing the meetings of this ongoing WSN network.



Workshop with women candidates after 2019 NGE.

- ▶ **National Voter Awareness Strategy.** As referred under result 3, the Strategy was prepared with SECSIP support and adopted by SIEC in March 2016. The Strategy has an inclusive approach particularly taking into account the input Gender Focal Point and the advice on gender aspects provided to the Electoral Office by SECSIP including recommendations to enhance voter awareness on gender related aspects.
- ▶ **Pacific Regional Conference on Temporary Special Measures (TSM).** A conference was held in Papua New Guinea on 23-24 November 2015 with focus on Temporary Special Measures in the context of women’s political and public participation. The conference included the presentation of Samoa and New Caledonia case studies on TSM and panel discussions on the Pacific efforts to increase women’s political participation. SECSIP sponsored the attendance of 7 stakeholders from the Solomon Islands⁵⁴.

Indicator 5.2.1: Number of laws passed to improve the situation of women in political decision making⁵⁵

⁵⁴ Ms. Ruth Liloquula (Commissioner, Political Party Commission); Ms. Josephine Teakeni (Head, Vois Blo Mere, Solomon Islands); Hon. Andrew Manepora ‘a (MP, Deputy Speaker of SI Parliament); Mr. George Kuper (Chief of Staff- Prime Minister Office, SI); Mr. George Palua (Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Home Affairs); Ms. Ethel Sigimanu (Permanent Secretary of MWYCFA); Mr. John Kouni (Legal Advisor- Fundamental Reforms, Office of the Prime Minister).

⁵⁵ Means of verification: copies of relevant acts/bills; meeting notes.

Table 25: Number of laws passed during the reporting period with impact on women in political decision making

Year	LAW	IMPACT ON WOMEN DECISION MAKING
2014	Political Parties Integrity Act*	Section 48 (10% women of total number of candidates) Section 49 TSM financial grant for political parties returning women candidates. 49(2) however provides ‘where the minimum of women who have applied or agreed to be nominated as candidates is less than the number of women required by the political party to satisfy subsection (1), such political party will not have contravened this section.
2017	Solomon Islands Tertiary Education & Skills Authority	Section 5 (f) to improve participation and promote fair and equitable access to tertiary education and skills development
	Ombudsman Act	To investigate grievances allegedly cause by the administrative conduct of prescribed officers or bodies in the exercise of powers or the performance of functions.
2018	Anti-Corruption Act*	Section 1 (Composition) requires that the membership of the SI Independent Commission Against Corruption includes at least 2 persons of each gender ⁵⁶ .
	Constitution (Amendment) Electoral Reform Act*	New Section 57 (Electoral Commission) requires at least 1 member of the Commission to be a woman
	Electoral Act*	Section 28(1)(a)(iv) on appointment requirements provides for ‘as far as possible, a gender balance at all levels of electoral officials’
	<i>*Note: for information purposes; while not passed by Parliament, SECSIP supported the draft of the Political Parties Integrity (Amendment) Bill* submitted to NP in 2018</i>	The Bill proposes the following amendments: Section 19 on application for registration of political parties to require the application to be submitted with a list of 500 members of the political party (currently 250) all of them registered as voters and proposes to require at least 10% of the members to be women Section 31(a) on grounds for de-registration ‘the political party no longer meets the requirements for registration under this Act’ to add ‘(aa) the political party that fails to comply with any measure on women representation or participation in political parties under this Act’ Section 42 to include additional requirement so ‘the members of the executive of a political party shall comprise at least 10% of women’ and to add subparagraph (6) stating that ‘a political party shall treat all its members, executive members and members of Parliament equally’

⁵⁶ During the training of women leaders organized by SECSIP in December 2018, UNDP Anti-Corruption Adviser Marine Destrez facilitated a session on the Anti-Corruption Act.

* Technical assistance/advice by UNDP/SECSIP

Project reference: FED/2013/328-922

Title of the Action: Strengthening the Electoral Cycle in the Solomon Islands (SECSIP)

Reporting Period: 01/07/2013 to 31/12/2019

SECSIP Budget	Responsible Party	Annex III Budget of the Action				Annex III Budget of the Action (as per Addendum 1)	Annex III Budget of the Action (as per Addendum 3)	Expenditure 2013-2019	Expenditure 2013-2019	Deviation in budget and expenditure
		Activity	Budget Code	Budget Description	Total (EUR)	Total (EUR)	Total (EUR)	Total (EUR)	Total (USD)	Total Deviation
1.1 Complete the preparations for the implementation of a new VR system	SIEC UNDP MHA	Activity1.1	71200	International Consultant	89,000	131,285	206,094	206,094	266,235.06	
		Activity1.1	71300	Local Consultant		50,000	46,865	46,865	60,541.19	
		Activity1.1	72500	Supplies	4,450	3,594	93,594	93,594	120,906.26	
		Activity1.1	71600	Travel	178,000	509	32,175	32,175	41,564.67	
		Activity1.1	74200	Printing and Production costs			-	0	-	
		Activity1.1	75700	Training, Workshops and Conferences	178,000	22,180	22,180	22,180	28,652.49	
1.2 Implementation of the VR system and creation of a new register of voters	SIEC UNDP MHA	Activity1.2	72500	Supplies	53,400	16,016	581	581	750.55	
		Activity1.2	72300	Materials and Goods	774,102	311,561	288,883	288,883	373,184.25	
		Activity1.2	71400	Contractual Services - Individual	89,000	162,863	166,135	166,135	214,615.90	
		Activity1.2	75700	Training, Workshops and Conferences			-	0	-	
		Activity1.2	75700	Training, Workshops and Conferences	133,500	30,000	-	0	-	
		Activity1.2	72400	Communication & Audio Visual Equipment	78,044	62,683	58,409	58,409	75,453.05	
1.3 Enhance the sustainability and inclusiveness of the registration system	SIEC UNDP MHA	Activity1.3	61200	Salaries -Local staff		17,300	-	0	-	
		Activity1.3	61300	Salaries-International staff		296,101		121,000	156,309.77	
		Activity1.3	71400	Service Contracts		70,000	-	0	-	
		Activity1.3	71600	Travel	338,832	58,284	26,853	26,853	34,689.22	
		Activity1.3	71200	International Consultant	105,002	605,116	362,205	362,205	467,901.89	
		Activity1.3	71300	Local Consultant			-	0	-	
		Activity1.3	72400	Communication & Audio Visual Equipment		8,000	-	0	-	
		Activity1.3	72500	Supplies		5,542	-	0	-	

SECSIP Budget	Responsible Party	Annex III Budget of the Action				Annex III Budget of the Action (as per Addendum 1)	Annex III Budget of the Action (as per Addendum 3)	Expenditure 2013-2019	Expenditure 2013-2019	Deviation in budget and expenditure
		Activity	Budget Code	Budget Description	Total (EUR)	Total (EUR)	Total (EUR)	Total (EUR)	Total (USD)	Total Deviation
		Activity1.3	72800	Information Technology supplies		14,695	46,629	46,629	60,235.48	
		Activity1.3	73100	Rental/Utility costs		1,010	-	0	-	
		Activity1.3	73400	Rental and Maintenance-Transport Equip		4,193	-	0	-	
		Activity1.3	74100	Professional services		9,000	-	0	-	
		Activity1.3	74200	Printing and Production costs		25,000	-	0	-	
		Activity1.3	74600	Expensed Equipment.		6,000	39,138	39,138	50,559.03	
		Activity1.3	75700	Training, Workshops and Conferences	83,670	194,068	155,712	155,712	201,151.04	
Sub-Total Output 1				2,105,000	2,105,000	1,545,452	1,666,452	2,152,750	108%	
2.1 Enhance capacity of the SIEC and OSIEC to manage and electoral cycle	SIEC UNDP MHA	Activity2.1	71200	International Consultant			692,214	692,214	894,213.26	
		Activity2.1	71300	Local Consultant	209,700	646,895	43,505	43,505	56,200.04	
		Activity2.1	75700	Training, Workshops and Conferences	994,700	123,193	115,888	115,888	149,706.38	
		Activity2.1	72600	Grants			248,917	248,917	321,554.76	
		Activity2.1	71400	Contractual Services - Individual			58,597	58,597	75,696.15	
		Activity2.1	72300	Materials and Goods			253,735	253,735	327,778.44	
		Activity2.1	72500	Supplies			-	0	-	
		Activity2.1	74200	Printing			48,895	48,895	63,163.82	
		Activity2.1	72800	Information Technology supplies			234,802	234,802	303,321.44	
		Activity2.1	71600	Travel	475,926	138,806	85,228	85,228	110,099.00	
2.2 Improve infrastructure for more efficient electoral management	SIEC UNDP MHA	Activity2.2	72400	Communication & Audio Visual Equipment	41,024	79,658	100,888	100,888	130,328.54	
		Activity2.2	71200	International Consultant	89,000	267,985	234,834	234,834	303,362.07	
		Activity2.2	73100	Rental/Utility costs			98,426	98,426	127,148.67	
		Activity2.2	71600	Travel			2,338	2,338	3,020.25	
		Activity2.2	72100	Contractual Services-Companies	133,500	276,500	308,794	166,794	215,467.21	
		Activity2.2	72200	Equipment and Furniture	173,550	313,824	265,004	265,004	342,336.95	

SECSIP Budget	Responsible Party	Annex III Budget of the Action				Annex III Budget of the Action (as per Addendum 1)	Annex III Budget of the Action (as per Addendum 3)	Expenditure 2013-2019	Expenditure 2013-2019	Deviation in budget and expenditure
		Activity	Budget Code	Budget Description	Total (EUR)	Total (EUR)	Total (EUR)	Total (EUR)	Total (USD)	Total Deviation
2.3 Strengthen SIEC's operational planning, communication and coordination capacity	SIEC UNDP MHA	Activity2.3	61200	Salaries - Local staff		21,200	-	0	-	
		Activity2.3	61300	Salaries- International staff		180,500	271,778	221,778	286,496.44	
		Activity2.3	71200	International Consultant	71,200	214,058	76,594	76,594	98,945.42	
		Activity2.3	71300	Local Consultant	71,200	45,731	33,731	33,731	43,574.26	
		Activity2.3	71400	Service Contracts		10,000	-	0	-	
		Activity2.3	71600	Travel	142,400	44,944	51,361	54,361	70,224.43	
		Activity2.3	75700	Training, Workshops and Conferences	87,800	126,706	90,499	90,499	116,908.45	
Sub-Total Output 2				2,490,000	2,490,000	3,316,028	3,127,028	4,039,546	94%	
3.1 Enhance the strategic ability of the SIEC to conduct civic and voter education	SIEC UNDP MHA	Activity3.1	74200	Audio Visual & Print Production Costs	43,183	150,594	199,199	199,199	257,328.32	
		Activity3.1	71600	Travel	124,600	100,106	104,206	38,206	49,355.68	
		Activity3.1	72300	Materials and Goods	80,100	61,050	142,205	142,205	183,702.48	
		Activity3.1	75700	Training, Workshops and Conferences	213,600	171,387	344,197	344,197	444,638.70	
		Activity3.1	71300	Local Consultant		65,000	98,222	98,222	126,884.22	
		Activity3.1	71200	International Consultant	178,000	374,640	425,662	425,662	549,876.52	
3.2 Enhance the capacity of the CSOs to provide voter education and coordinate with the SIEC and increase implementation of civic and voter education activities	SIEC UNDP MHA	Activity3.2	71200	International Consultant			197,446	197,446	255,063.96	
		Activity3.2	71600	Travel	469,110	78,144	63,962	63,962	82,626.88	
		Activity3.2	72400	Communication & Audio Visual Equipment			22,141	22,141	28,602.00	
		Activity3.2	72600	Grants		72,174	198,214	198,214	256,056.40	
		Activity3.2	75700	Training, Workshops and Conferences			50,379	50,379	65,080.63	
		Activity3.2	74200	Audio Visual & Print Prod Costs	321,407	356,905	392,519	392,519	507,063.03	
Sub-Total Output 3				1,430,000	1,430,000	2,238,351	2,172,351	2,806,279	97%	
4.1 Strengthen legal capacity of of the SIEC and improve electoral legislation submitted for approval	SIEC UNDP MHA	Activity4.1	75700	Training, Workshops and Confer	240,300	135,314	156,244	156,244	201,838.02	
		Activity4.1	71200	International Consultant		60,000	58,825	58,825	75,990.62	
		Activity4.1	71300	Local Consultant		20,000	-	0	-	
		Activity4.1	74200	Audio Visual & Print Prod Costs			8,092	8,092	10,453.23	
		Activity4.1	71400	Service Contracts			40,926	40,926	52,869.00	
		Activity4.1	71600	Travel	34,700	59,686	69,243	69,242	89,448.20	
		Activity4.2	71600	Travel		-	-		30,000	38,754.49
Sub-Total Output 4				275,000	275,000	333,328	363,328	469,354	109%	

SECSIP Budget	Responsible Party	Annex III Budget of the Action				Annex III Budget of the Action (as per Addendum 1)	Annex III Budget of the Action (as per Addendum 3)	Expenditure 2013-2019	Expenditure 2013-2019	Deviation in budget and expenditure
		Activity	Budget Code	Budget Description	Total (EUR)	Total (EUR)	Total (EUR)	Total (EUR)	Total (USD)	Total Deviation
5.1 Strengthen capacity of SIEC, national authorities and CSOs to advocate for women participation in politics and decision making	SIEC UNDP MHA	Activity5.1	71600	Travel	110,000	27,863	61,060	61,060	78,877.70	
		Activity5.1	61200	Salaries - Local staff			92,224	92,224	119,136.20	
		Activity5.1	61300	Salary & Post Adj Cst-IP Staff			51,492	155,492	200,867.64	
		Activity5.1	71300	Local Consultant		10,000	13,659	13,659	17,644.61	
		Activity5.1	71200	International Consultant	30,000	171,645	176,318	176,318	227,770.83	
		Activity5.1	72400	Communication & Audio Visual Equipment			60,275	60,275	77,864.56	
		Activity5.1	72600	Grants		20,000	-	0	-	
		Activity5.1	74200	Visual Printing and Production Costs			35,493	35,493	45,850.32	
		Activity5.1	75700	Training, Workshops and Conferences	60,000	37,981	69,368	69,368	89,610.49	
5.2 Support legislation review and drafting in relation to women participation in political life	SIEC UNDP MHA	Activity5.2	71300	Local Consultant	60,000	102,511	105,352	105,352	136,095.96	
		Activity5.2	71400	Service Contracts			68,530	68,530	88,527.62	
		Activity5.2	71200	International Consultant			-	0	-	
		Activity5.2	74500	Miscellaneous Expenses			40,606	40,606	52,455.25	
		Activity5.2	75700	Training, Workshops and Conferences	110,000		33,403	33,403	43,150.31	
		Activity5.3	75700	Training, Workshops and Conferences	-		-	0	-	
				Sub-Total Output 5	370,000	370,000	807,779	911,779	1,177,851	113%
				Total	6,670,000	6,670,000	8,240,940	8,240,939	10,645,780	
	GMS	75100	UNDP Administrative Costs*	466,900	466,900	667,164	667,164	861,854		
				Grand Total	7,136,900	7,136,900	8,908,104	8,908,104	11,507,633	

Exchange rate, as per United Nations Operational Rates of Exchange, was used: 0.727 (as of 4/4/2014) and 0.8610 (as of 13/11/2017)

*Of the "8,908,104 EUR (11,507,633 USD)" presented above, EUR 8,240,939 corresponds to eligible actual expenses (as per IPSAS terminology), EUR 667,164 represents the amount of legal commitments currently in force between UNDP (or UNDP's implementing partners) and a third party."

For reporting purposes, the indirect cost (remuneration cost) included in the final financial report is calculated at 8% of the total eligible direct cost. However, the rate for the EU contribution applied was the 7% of the total eligible direct cost as attributable to the EU, in accordance with UNDP-EU agreement.

Financial summary	A		B	
	EUR	Exchange rate*	USD	
Total cost of the Action (as per Addendum 3)	\$ 8,908,104		-	
Total EU contribution (as per Addendum 3)	\$ 3,500,000		-	
4/04/2014 - First pre-financing payment received (as per Art. 4.3 - addendum 1)	\$ 2,123,745.00	0.7270	\$ 2,921,244.84	
13/11/2017 - Further pre-financing payment received (as per Art. 4.3 - addendum 1)	\$ 1,240,806.18	0.8610	\$ 1,441,122.16	
Weighted average				
1st (4/4/14) and 2nd(13/11/2017) instalments	\$ 3,364,551.18		\$ 4,362,367.00	
Weighted average (A130/B130)	\$ 0.77		-	
Total expenditures incurred:	\$ 8,908,103.57		-	
Amount to be requested from EC (Forecast Final Payment):	\$ 135,448.80			

List of equipment purchased and funded within the frame of contribution agreement FED/2014/328-922 and transferred from SECSIP/UNDP project “Strengthening the Electoral Cycle in the Solomon Islands II (SECSIP II)” to local project partner Solomon Islands Electoral Commission (SIEC). The Project Board endorsed below transfer in its session held on 20 February 2020 as well as the request made by the project to retain assets still being used by the SECSIP team until the end of project implementation.

Number	Acquisition date	Item/Description	Quantity	Amount (USD)
Equipment transferred to Solomon Islands Electoral Office (SIEC)				
1	2009	DELL Vostro 326 SFF Desktop, 7 th Generation Intel Core i5-7400 processor, Bezel with optical drive (reads and writes to DVD/CD), 4GB DDR4 2400MHz:1TB 7200rpm SATA HDD, Tray Loading Dual Layer, DVD Burner, Cyberlink software for windows 8/10 with media, Dell Wireless 1707 Driver	1	\$ 2,595.84
2	2009	Notebook Computer, Dell XPS 13, Intel Core i5-8250U, Intel UHD Graphics 620, 13.3 inch FHD Infinity Edge display, Intergrated Webcam, No fingerprint Reader, GB LPDDR3 1866MHz,1TB Pcle Solid State Drive, E5-45W Type- C Power Adapter - UK power plug, 52WHr Battery, Killer 1435 802. 11ac 2x2, Blue tooth, No WWAN, USB-C /Thunderbolt, No Ethernet, No optical drive, D33JTN2	1	\$ 1,820.00
3	2009	Notebook Computer, Processor: 7 th Generation Intel Core i7, 2.8Gz, Operating system: Windows10 Pro (64bit) English, Display: 13 inch, Memory: 16GB, Webcam: Integrated, Storage: minimum of 500GB capacity	1	\$ 1,617.94
4	2009	HP Colour Laser Jet Enterprise Flow MFP M880Z, Multi Function (MFP), Monthly capacity: 5000 to 2500, Max Pages per minute: Up to 46 ppm, Memory: 1.5GB Not expandable, Hard Disk Drive: 320GB, Print Resolution : Up to 1200 x 1200 dpi, Duplex: Automatic, Paper Trays: 1x100 + 1x500 + 1x1500 + 1x2000, USB connectivity: USB 2.0 + USB-Host, Lan connectivity: Gigabit Ethernet 10/100/1000T - RJ45, MFP Function: Copy, Scan, Fax, Max. Media size; A3 / 320 X 470 mm, 1 Year warranty	1	\$ 9,775.00
5	2009	Notebook Computer, Processor: 7 th Generation Intel Core i7, 2.8Gz, Operating system: Windows10 Pro (64bit) English, Display: 13 inch, Memory: 16GB, Webcam: Integrated, Storage: minimum of 500GB capacity	1	\$ 1,617.94
6	2009	Desktop Computer with media software, HP Prodesk 400 G4, HP SERIES HP PRODESK 400 G4, FORM FACTOR Small Form Factor, OPERATING SYSTEM Windows 10 Pro 64, C PU Intel core i7 Processor 7700 3.6 Ghz, MEMORY 16GB DDRA (2400Mhz), MEMORY SLOTS 2, STORAGE 1TB (7200pm) SATA, OPTICAL DRIVE DVDRW, GRAPHICS Intel HD 630 Graphics, BLUETOOTH No, NETWORK COMMUNICATIONS Integrated Realtek RTL8111G GbE, Monitor, UPS, speakers	1	\$ 4,540.45
7	2009	Notebook Computer, Dell XPS 13, (9370) (BNX37002), Windows 10 Pro 64bit English, Dutch, French, German, Italian, Processor: 8 th Generation Intel (R) Core (TM) i7-8250U, Processor (8M Cache, up to 4.0 GHz, 4 cores) Graphics: Intel (R) UHD Graphics 620, Webcam: Integrated, Display: 13.3 inch FHD (1920x1080) InfinityEdge display, machine aluminum, Memory: 8GB LPDDR3 1866MHz, Hard Disk Drive: 256 GB Pcle Solid State Drive, Network WLAN: Killer 1435 802.11ac 2x2 and Bluetooth, WPAN: Bluetooth, Battery: 52WHr Battery, Keyboard: Internal US International Qwerty Backlit Keyboard, Warranty: 3 yr ProSupport and Next Business Day on-site service	1	\$ 1,724.25
8	2009	BenQ MS521 Projector: Brightness: 3000ANSI, Colour Light Output, Weight: 2.3kg, Size: 11 x 30 x 22, Display: colour wheel speed, colour wheel segs, Lamp: 190W, Digital key stone: vertical, speakers: 2 Mono, Max Power: 240W Wireless presenter pointer: PC netbook/Ultrabook,50ft wireless range laser pointer, stow-n-go, USB receiver, USB compatible	11	\$ 941.83
9	2009	HP Laserjet 200 Printer, Type: Medium Range Multifunctional Printer, Print: Black & Colour, Print Speed: Up to 33ppm, First Page out: less than 10 secs, Processor speed: 300MHz, Memory: 48 mb, Paper size: A4, Duplex printing: Two sided printing capability, Connections: Fast Ethernet, Efficiency: Energy Star Qualified, Power: 240 AC	1	\$ 1,269.00
10	2009	Office furniture: CL820 High Back Executive Chairs - Soft PU - Black, Nova Semi-Ergon Typist Chairs no arms - Black (BM) RapdLine Go Filing Cabinet - 4 Drawers, Graphite Ripple	3 12 6	\$ 6,542.72
11	2009	Item 1 - Rack Mounted Server Dell PowerEdge R630 Server p/n 210-ACXS	1	\$ 39,050.00

Number	Acquisition date	Item/Description	Quantity	Amount (USD)
Equipment transferred to Solomon Islands Electoral Office (SIEC)				
12	2009	Item 2 - Rack APC NetShelter SX	1	\$ 1,173.00
13	2009	Item 3 - AC for Rack SmartRack Portable Server Rack Cooling Unit, APC Roof Fan	1	\$ 2,250.00
14	2009	Item 4 - Rack UPS Dell APC Smart- UPS SRT 3000VA	1	\$ 3,982.00
15	2009	Item 5 - UPS Network Management Card	1	\$ 460.00
16	2009	Item 6 - Networking Switch Dell Networking N4032F, Dell EMC Switch N1124P	1	\$ 7,779.00
17	2009	Item 7 - KVM+ monitor Dell DMPU108e, Dell KMM DKMMLED185	1	\$ 2,892.00
18	2009	Item 8 - PC Monitors Dell 43 UltraHD Monitor P4317Q	1	\$ 826.00
19	2009	Item 9 - PC Desktop computer Dell OptiPlex 3050	1	\$ 1,251.00
20	2009	Notebook Computers: HP Probook 430 G5 (i3) (2WJ76PA), CPU: Intel i3-6006U Processor, Memory: 4GB RAM, Storage: 500GB Hard Disk, Operating System: Windows 10 Home	1	\$ 819.00
21	2009	Notebook Computers: HP Probook 430 G5 (i3) (2WJ76PA), CPU: Intel i3-6006U Processor, Memory: 4GB RAM, Storage: 500GB Hard Disk, Operating System: Windows 10 Home	1	\$ 819.00
22	2009	Notebook Computers: HP Probook 430 G5 (i3) (2WJ76PA), CPU: Intel i3-6006U Processor, Memory: 4GB RAM, Storage: 500GB Hard Disk, Operating System: Windows 10 Home	1	\$ 819.00
23	2009	Notebook Computers: HP Probook 430 G5 (i3) (2WJ76PA), CPU: Intel i3-6006U Processor, Memory: 4GB RAM, Storage: 500GB Hard Disk, Operating System: Windows 10 Home	1	\$ 819.00
24		Notebook Computers: HP Probook 430 G5 (i3) (2WJ76PA), CPU: Intel i3-6006U Processor, Memory: 4GB RAM, Storage: 500GB Hard Disk, Operating System: Windows 10 Home	1	\$ 819.00
25		Notebook Computers: HP Probook 430 G5 (i3) (2WJ76PA), CPU: Intel i3-6006U Processor, Memory: 4GB RAM, Storage: 500GB Hard Disk, Operating System: Windows 10 Home	1	\$ 819.00
26	2009	Laptop battery - 6-cell 60W/HR Express Charge	254	\$ 20,066.00
27	2009	Web camera - Microsoft LifeCam Studio - Web camera	11	\$ 891.00
28	2009	Desktop camera tripod - Velbon EX Series EX-mini	5	\$ 135.00
29	2009	Fingerprint scanner - Secugen Hamster IV Finger print	9	\$ 1,476.00
30	2009	Printer - Canon PIXMA iP110 - Printer - colour with battery	56	\$ 18,872.00
31	2009	Printer battery - Canon LK-62	74	\$ 11,470.00
32	2009	Canon PGI-35 Black	1000	\$ 10,000.00
33	2009	Canon CLI-36 Color	1000	\$ 15,000.00
34	2010	Notebook Computers, Dell Professional P2016 19.5" IPS Monitor	1	\$ 135.00
35	2010	Bus: Toyota Hiace, 2017 Model, 15 seater mini bus	1	\$ 30,056.53
36		Note books	800	\$ 3,584.00
37		Generator 1.200 Watt (160 Solomon Islands Electoral Commission Office; 10 Political Parties; (8 Women Resource Centre)	178	\$ 64,188.00
Sub-Total				\$ 272,895.50
Equipment transferred to Winners of the Essay Competition on Women Leadership and Political Participation in 2016				
1		Notebook computers	6	\$ 6,254.34
Sub-Total				\$ 6,254.34
Equipment transferred to Winners of the Essay & Poster Competition on Women Leadership and Political Participation in 2017				
1		BLU STUDIO PRO - mobile phones	12	\$ 2,147.33
2		Notebook Computers	12	\$ 15,206.40
Sub-Total				\$ 17,353.73
Total				\$ 296,503.57

Following the provisions of article 9.7 of the General Conditions, UNDP requests⁵⁷ the approval of EU to retain ownership of below equipment currently in use by project staff to be retained until completion of UNDP SECSIP II Project.

No.	Acquisition Date	ItemDescription	Function	Beneficiary	Manufact.	€ EUR Value	Serial No.	Remarks
1	1/6/2018	Notebook computers	Laptop	SECSIP [UNDP]	MacBook	USD 1,730.00	FVFWQ06WHV2F	Currently used by SECSIPs CTA
2	1/6/2018	Notebook computer	Laptop	SECSIP [UNDP]	DELL	USD 1,820.00	FCTGTN2	Currently used by SECSIPs procurement officer
3	1/8/2018	Camera	Camera	SECSIP [UNDP]	Canon	USD 2,748.15	635062000235	Currently use for SECSIPs activities
4	31/10/2018	Notebook computer	Laptop	SECSIP [UNDP]	DELL	USD 2,007.25	144LHR2	Currently used by SECSIPs finance and admin officer
5	11/12/2018	Computer printer	Printer	SECSIP [UNDP]	Brother MFC	USD 1,638.00	E77460K8J303179	Currently used in SECSIPs office
6	22/05/2018	Notebook computer	Laptop	SECSIP [UNDP]	HP	USD 819.00	5CD8041CTS	Currently used by Project Coordinator
7	22/05/2018	Notebook computer	Laptop	SECSIP [UNDP]	HP	USD 819.00	5CD8041CTR	To be kept in cabinet as spare laptop for office
8	10/11/2018	Notebook computer	Laptop	SECSIP [UNDP]	DELL	USD 1,127.25	C6WMHR2	Currently used by SECSIPs Gender advisor.
9	10/11/2018	Computer Monitor	Monitor	SECSIP [UNDP]	DELL	USD 95.00	CN-064CDC-FCC00-768-A3YU-A00	Currently used by SECSIPs finance and admin officer

⁵⁷ Reference is made to request letter to the EU Delegation seeking retention of these assets (June 2020).

I EU visibility

Throughout the project implementation of different activities, SECSIP has ensured the visibility of international development partners, the EU and the Australian government acknowledging the importance of their contribution and expressing gratitude for their continuous support. This has included speeches and key note addresses by UNDP Country Manager, SECSIP Chief Technical Adviser and the rest of SECSIP team, inclusion of logos in products and activities and, where possible, ensuring the presence of our international development partners in high visibility events.

Some samples of visibility and acknowledgement to development partners are as follows:

1. Photo exhibition:

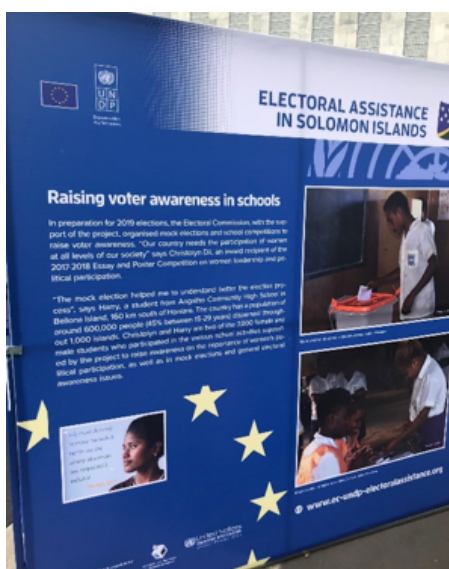
First photo exhibition-Brussels, Belgium:

SECSIP contributed to the EU-UNDP photo exhibition on Electoral Assistance entitled “The Power of Democracy” held in Brussels (20 Feb – 3 March 2018). The idea of this exhibition was to give visibility and communicate to European citizens the work the EU does in the field of governance and in particular regarding electoral support. The overall theme was on inclusiveness and the accent was on the participation of women and youth. The photo exhibition was launched on 20 February 2018 by the Director of RBA, Abdoulaye Mar Dieye.



Second photo exhibition-New York, USA:

SECSIP contributed to the photo exhibition “The Power of Democracy” in New York from 19 Sep to 5 Oct, 2018. SECSIP canvas’ reflected some of the project’s contributions to enhance voter awareness through activities involving youth. This included the mock elections and the poster and essay competition on Women’s Leadership and Political Participation for secondary school students and teachers. The inauguration ceremony of the photo exhibition took place on Wednesday 19 September 2018 and it was opened by Mr. Abdoulaye Mar Dieye, Assistant Secretary-General and Director of UNDP’s Bureau for Policy and Programme Support and Mr. Craig Jenness, Director of the Electoral Assistance Division of the Department of Political Affairs as well as Mr. Serge Christiane Minister Counsellor of the European Union Delegation in New York.



2. Study/Research/Publication links

- a. SECSIP calendar 2019:
<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1TwMvesvwSrWy6omCMOainjoSCX-kFVya/view?usp=sharing>
- b. KAP (2019) report:
<https://drive.google.com/open?id=1b7sDd3P6isUaU1S6NCtmgPtA7zGrVF1e>
- c. Post NGE 2019 lessons learned report:
https://drive.google.com/file/d/1YNZtpe8apu_UG19ZvnykN6UT_31tH1pY/view?usp=sharing
- d. A report analysing the 2019 NGE results:
<https://drive.google.com/open?id=1Zy-Ql8R-qlxEt5L41Bj5WdWQbiaBK6t7>
- e. Final report- women candidate schools 2019:
<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1hhM8UdgoEL0EgsdxETc4lf9kRGJZO11/view?usp=sharing>
- f. Gender study (Women leadership and political participation 2018) link:
<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1CZGQ0EbR7pnkAt9nNa783yXnLRu5Wvqx/view?usp=sharing>
- g. Electoral risk assessment (May 2018) report:
<https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1fzCVfGagM16hRGtoCu99ycJr-5vCAoj2?usp=sharing>
- h. Media trainings (2018-2019) link to final report:
<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1PUAK3REFQwqfYlZx6rR6uc8SBqR0BCQF/view?usp=sharing>
- i. Voter awareness strategy 2016-2019:
<http://www.siec.gov.sb/index.php/nge-resources/publications/78-siec-national-voter-awareness-strategy-2016-2019/file.html>
- j. Study on limited preferential voting (2017) link to the report:
https://drive.google.com/file/d/1urlCFEooTn_IQhpAoVcKcWau6OOOnISsv/view?usp=sharing
- k. A booklet with the winning essays and information on the competition concept and process 2017:
<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1dBKuuvk2GSyTpmBpZbrjsVMr8NxvjGey/view?usp=sharing>
- l. Voter awareness survey (2015):
<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1KGxeOhWEqYgkFSDCmao8tvn2cNU7CfVT/view?usp=sharing>
- m. Regional conference on women's leadership and political participation (2015) booklet:
https://drive.google.com/file/d/14ADwqbG_48b_YZimwFHY1YHVSC6pksYL/view?usp=sharing

3. Project board/TAC meetings



First page of the Project Board Meeting minutes, May 2019



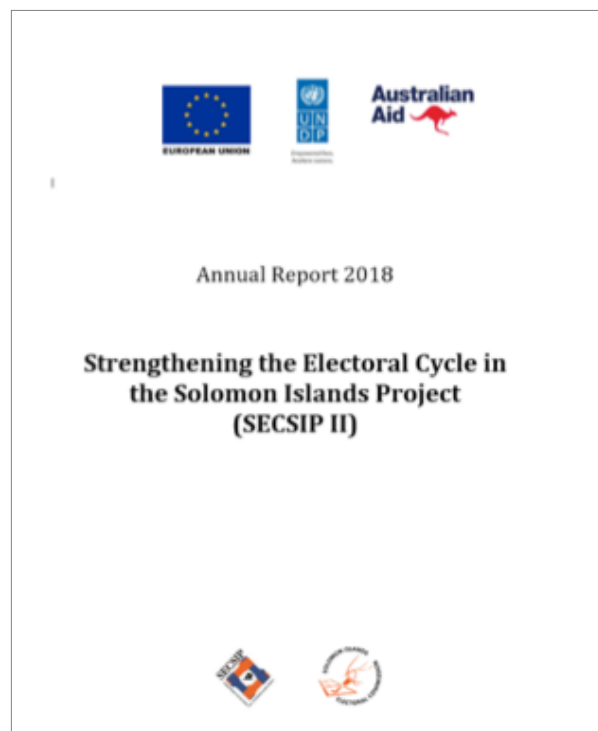
CTA presentation's cover page (PBM, May 2019)



Technical Advisory Committee meeting notes, March 2018

4. SECSIP reports

(all project reports display donor logos and acknowledgement texts. One example is shown below)



2018 Annual Report cover page showing donor logos



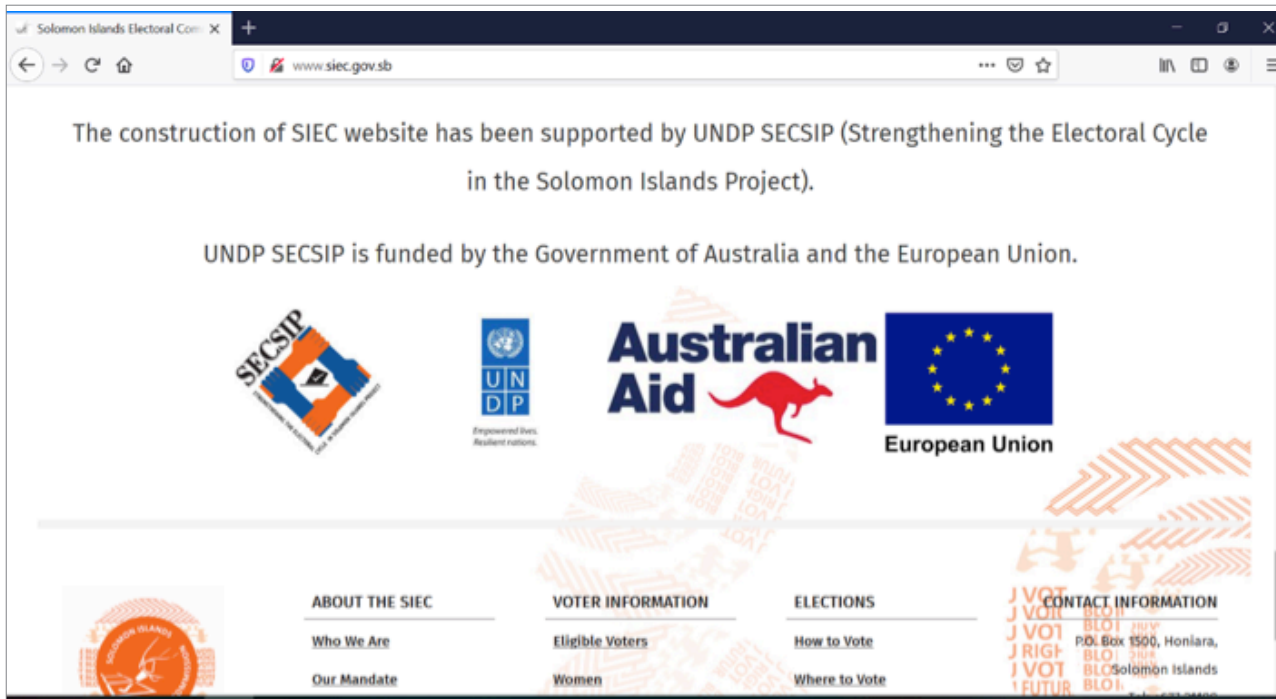
2018 Annual Report second page showing donor acknowledgement texts

5. Websites

SIEC Website:

User Manual: https://drive.google.com/file/d/1WzyD7jATWXYFQMH9AqjQ5FqGUq__XZy5/view?usp=sharing

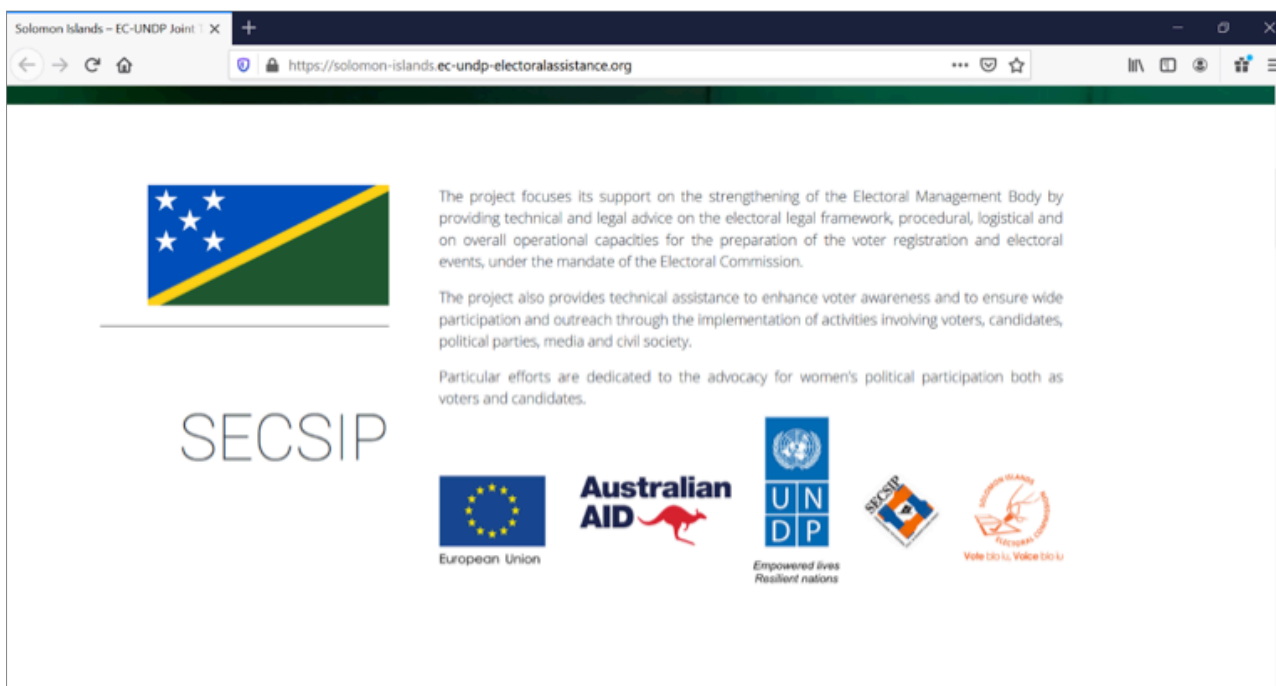
Website front page:



EC-UNDP Joint Task Force website: SECSIP page

<https://solomon-islands.ec-undp-electoralassistance.org/>

First page snapshot:



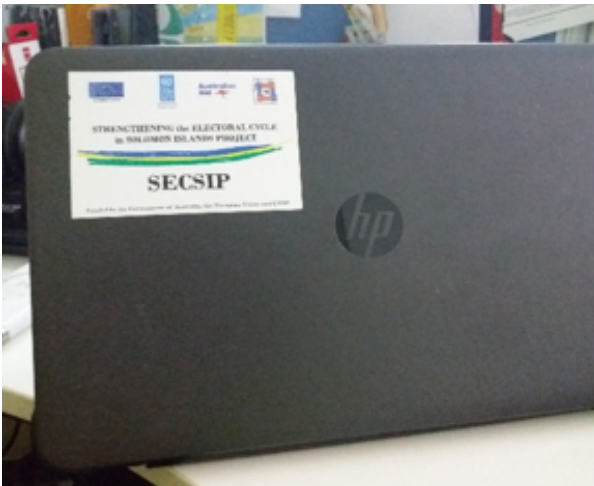
6. Project assets with donor logos



File cabinet with donor logos



Generator with donor logos



Laptop with donor logos

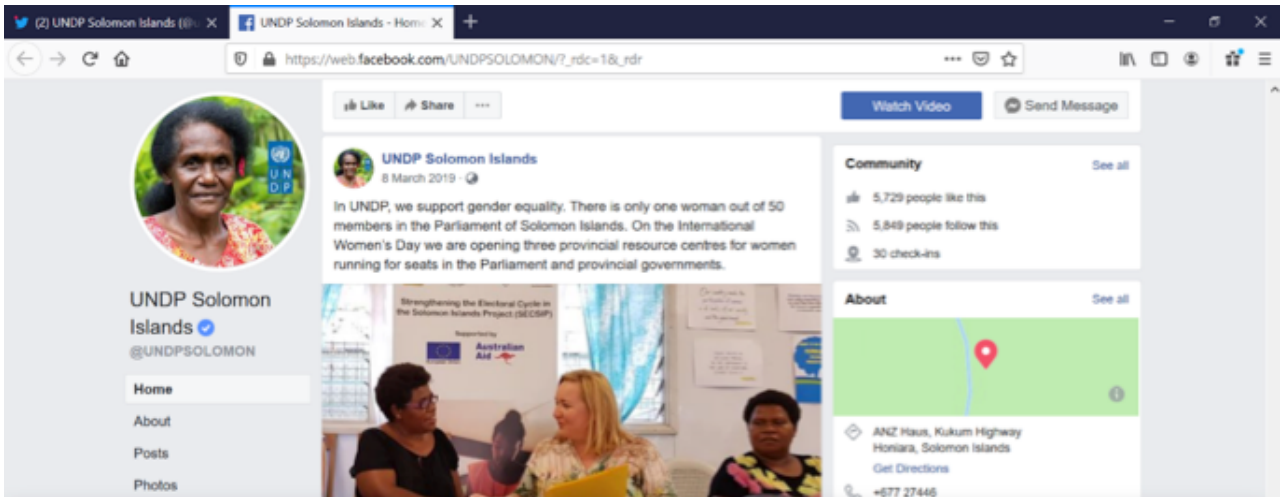


Printer with donor logos

7. Press conference/News coverage/Tweets

a. Refresher trainings for media professional in Honiara, Feb 2019:
<https://www.solomonstarnews.com/index.php/news/national/item/21341-journos-complete-refresher-training>

b. UNDP SI post after handing over of women resource centre:



c. Newspaper coverage on transfer of equipment to entities hosting the candidate resource centres and marking the launching of Outstanding Women



d. Social media post by UNDP after training provided to PWDs 2019:

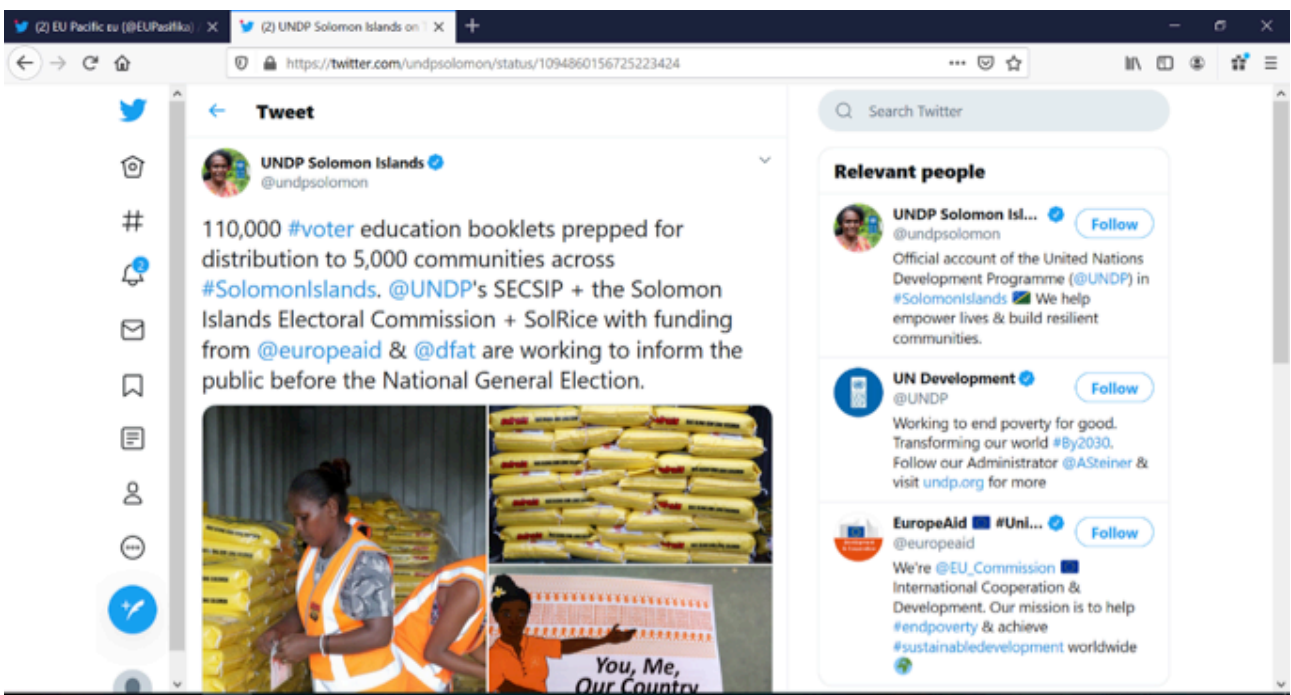


e. SolRice collaboration for voter awareness press conference leaflet:

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1iklv5g0cuEOmHV-YOZI3L13KYrtenM4Q/view?usp=sharing>

f. SECSIP second collaboration with SolRice tweets by UNDP SI

<https://twitter.com/undpsolomon/status/1094860156725223424>



g. SECSIP's first collaboration news coverage

<https://www.sibconline.com.sb/solrais-distributes-110000-voter-awareness-leaflets/>

h. National women leadership workshop 2018 (copy the link to web browser):

https://theislandsun.com.sb/si-national-women-leadership-workshop-staged-successfully/?__cf_chl_jschl_tk__=af3b211b4ecf0c84193d2e025b9d8ffcd843c7-1588665915-0-AanwXuCv-sVWW-ifvB66sZxWJWlsQC8olfJx3XQ1BlajX2y9cYbQZxMzE4xb_XyKcSOF6Xhn1GW_nV7sEalr1sLtfPQ7_qaPiS61QX-Mo-uEW4oMzsuY64sBSxMP8mLLENpe-FeHdBgoMkbeNBJuJnDKgQXbfym1Kix1qj9SBAzBTW9XTLb-KK-05BmFhPWNs0hIjHq0wng9Mwt_vDQ1POE1M2BfuTypE7jjqroD-cYvxRQstvTofxv3vUcfUiXMTd-xuJk-2Da3abXZpUI9jHhpuye1ZORZ7sKU3Luiv6NmHUPdc_GLEpKztagL-CW78lcJ5OfSxxY1K-5algITSe6Rawth4je6SQ7wO7WCYWD8T

i. School poster and essay competitions on women leadership and political participation 2016, 2017-18 documents:

Sticker 2017-18

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1G6O6oWVYIHag5b3O2bsBPwFi1NBZFTOZ/view?usp=sharing>

Invitation card for award ceremony 2017-18

https://drive.google.com/file/d/14HNIYYU_tvGJ4LFuLxCSRmXNQQNOTtTF/view?usp=sharing

Invitation card for award ceremony 2016

https://drive.google.com/file/d/1VPw82kewuDYNqFnCGYGNMK2kv_3dgJ/view?usp=sharing

Award ceremony programme content 2016

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1r7I2F7R8s7kThTFM3oUB3LegOMTd0nxi/view?usp=sharing>

Newspaper coverage on 2016 award ceremony

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1opvhRDUMmmmycLPQCoNN1Ww2xnTWiBdj/view?usp=sharing>

j. Regional Conference on Women's Leadership and Political Participation (Honiara, 2 - 4 June 2015):

<https://www.solomonstarnews.com/index.php/features/women/item/7175-si-to-host-women-s-regional-conference>

k. Women's Leadership and Political Participation Regional Conference (2-4 June, 2015) media statement:

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1VQdDFsom9zJg7fKgEvVSdtazvKx34qAa/view?usp=sharing>

8. Vote awareness materials

a. Video

How to vote (2019 NGE)

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1FtqKA8J0N9NFrBCRu7ytlwbOwCLIKZV1/view?ts=5c9b5b87>

Electoral offence (2019 NGE)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UHpwVaChYbY>

How to choose your candidate (2019 NGE)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wY-jkIDgb58>

Media training 2018:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=X9RaIZQRLgI>

b. Booklets and manuals, and SECSIP calendar 2019

Voter education booklet (SoRice collaboration, 2019):

https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1dDMGr2Ev0_qkVjigbOZ3m79G39pYa60K

Election Manager Manual 2019 NGE:

<https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1hP2GLmzmchKUS8O54cWusPzFk7FjubYJ?usp=sharing>

Voter awareness manual 2018-2019:

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1zLzSroOmzrJ7Xj--BzDQt25V7svYlj6C/view?usp=sharing>

National women leadership workshop programme booklet, 2018:

https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1dDMGr2Ev0_qkVjigbOZ3m79G39pYa60K

c. SECSIP brochures and leaflets

Cover page of brochure

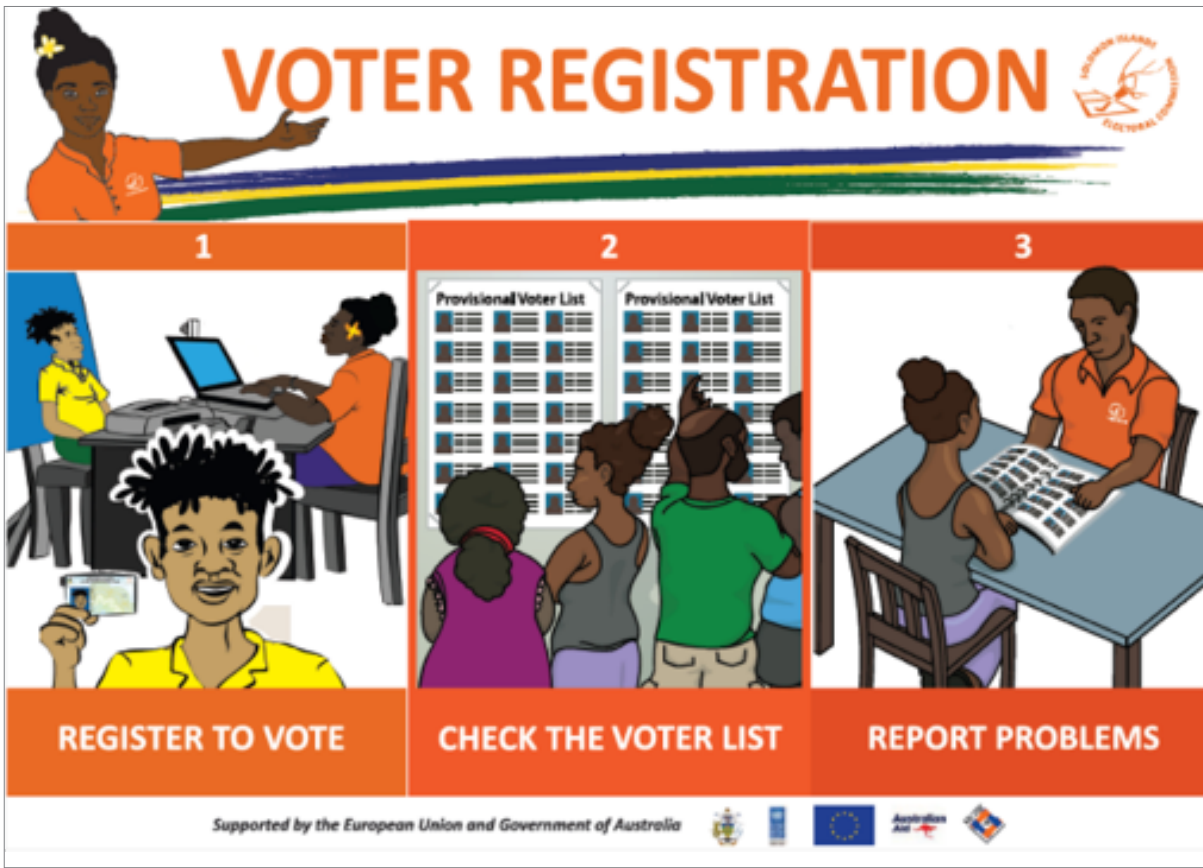


Cover page of leaflet



d. Voter awareness materials (posters/stickers/leaflets etc.)

Voter registration poster 2018



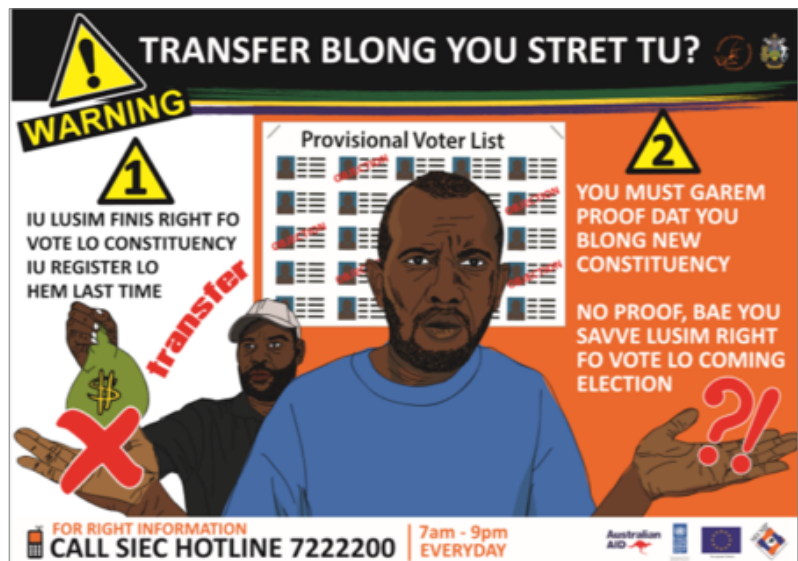
Voter registration flowchart



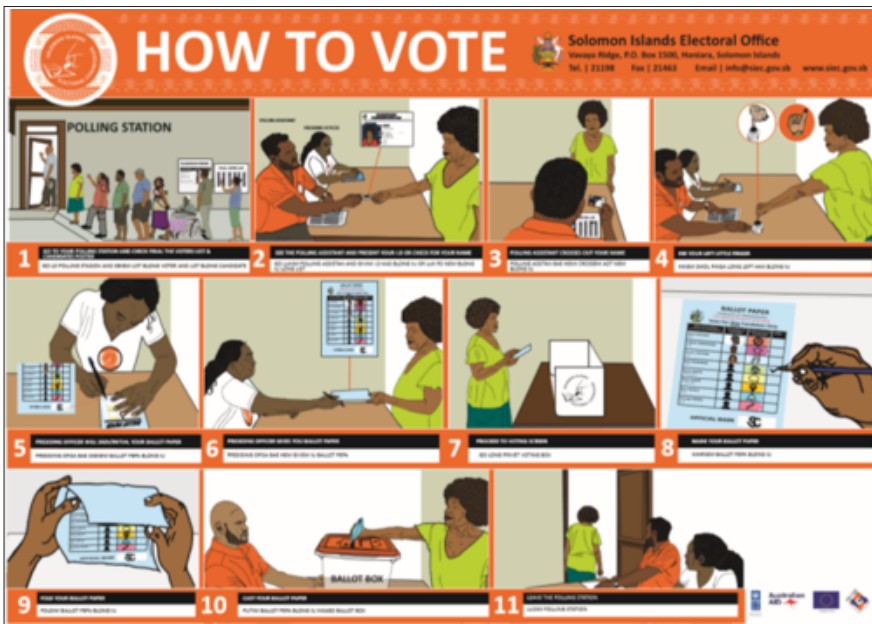
Voter registration sticker, 2014 and 2018



Hotline poster 2018



How to vote poster



Pull up banners for voter registration 2018



Register to vote leaflet with SolRice bags



2019 Calendar with key election dates



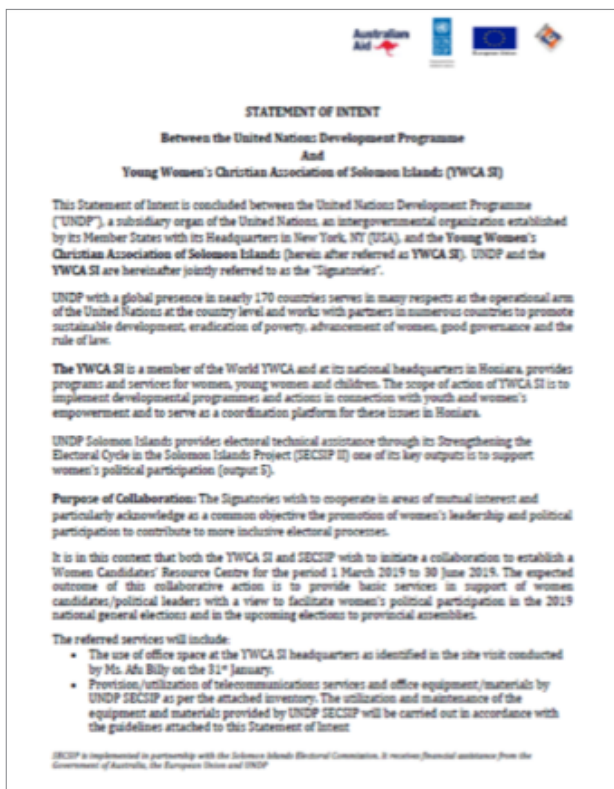
FAQs on omission and objections (second page)



9. SECSIP Graduate Programme candidates MOU signed by Government Ministries



10. Statement of Intent to use with 4 Women Resource Centres in the provinces (1 example)



11. Photos during implementation of activities



Group photo of NGE 2019 intending candidates with UNDP CM after first women candidate school (25 Feb-1 Mar, 2019).



Reflection workshop with CSOs, January 2019.

- Research on Women's leadership and political participation

PART OF THE UNDP STRENGTHENING THE ELECTORAL CYCLE IN SOLOMON ISLANDS PROJECT (SECSIP) PHASE II.
WITH FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE FROM THE AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT, THE EUROPEAN UNION AND UNDP

The slide features three logos at the bottom: Australian Aid (with a red kangaroo silhouette), UNDP (United Nations Development Programme) with the tagline "Empowered lives. Resilient nations.", and the European Union flag.

Presentation by consulting firm engaged by SECSIP to conduct a research on women's leadership and political participation, July 2018.



Key-note address by Ms. Helen Clark during the regional women's leadership workshop, August 2018 which was retransmitted by the Solomon Islands Broadcasting Corporation.



Women leadership workshop, December 2018.



Certificate distribution after training of media professionals 2018.



BVR update launching, August 2018.



Voter registration training, July 2018.



National voter registration observers 2018.



CEO Saitala addressing the media in the presence of EU attachée Elena Méndez-Adalid and Australian HC, Roderick Brazier during the press conference on the launching of the collaboration for the dissemination of voter awareness materials in August 2018.



Launching of the poster and essay competition in Buala, Isabel, in 2017.



Certificate for winners of school essay and poster competition 2017-2018.



2017-18 Essay competitions winners holding laptops with donor logos.

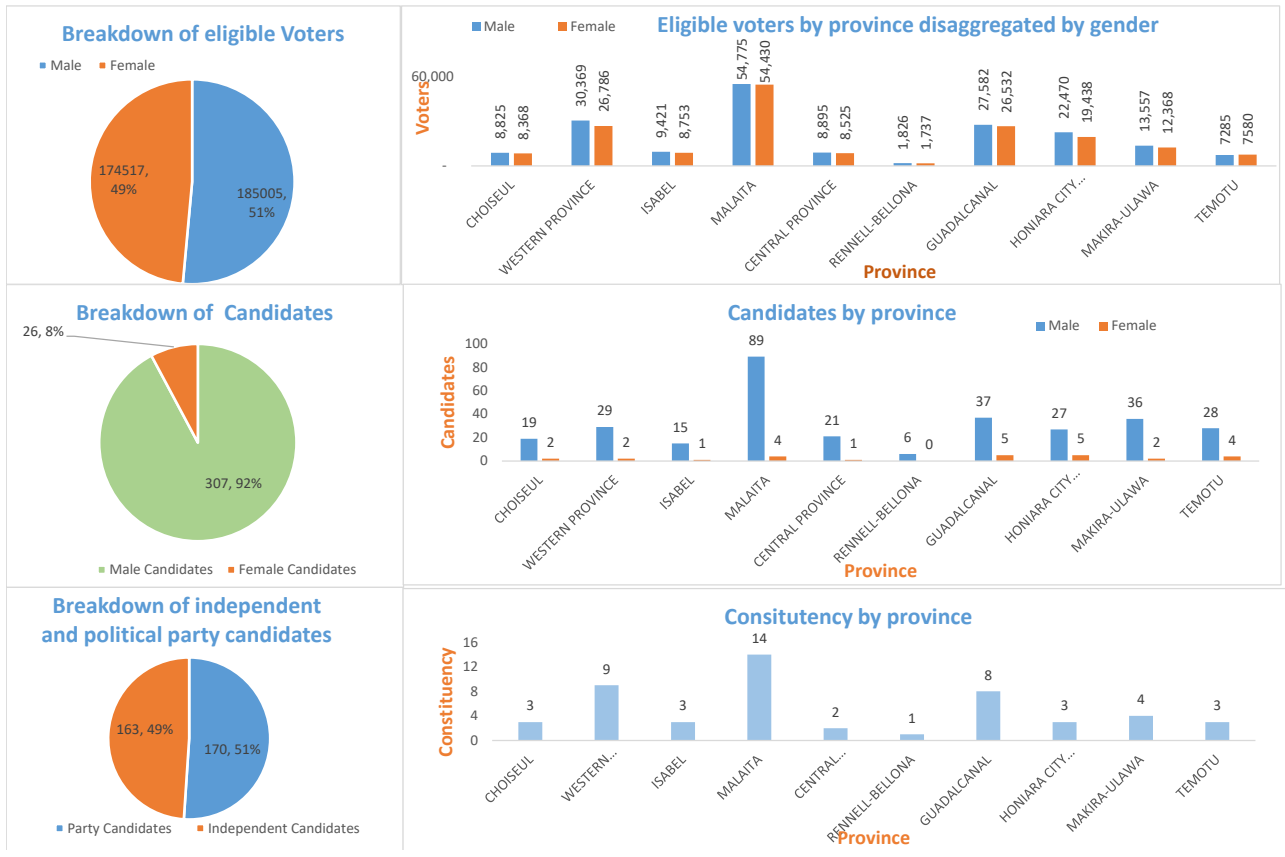


Award ceremony for winners of 2016 essay competition.



Regional conference, June 2016, Fiji.

Appendix 01: 2019 NGE statistics



Candidate nominations:

Nominated 336
 Disqualified 2,
 Withdrawn 3

Observers:

National 167,
 International 189,
 Total 356

Election figures:

Voters 359,523
 Province 10
 Constituency 50
 Polling station 1,043

Election officials >3,500
 Candidates 331
 Polling time: 7am to 5pm
 Polling day: April 3, 2019

Appendix 02: CSOs coverage through face to face voter awareness activities in 2018 and 2019

CSO	First Phase-constituency	Communities	Second Phase-constituency	Communities
Guadalcanal Provincial Council of Women (GPCW)	South Guadalcanal Constituency East Guadalcanal Constituency (Guadalcanal province)	East Guadalcanal: Totongo Community at Loggu ward, Macolu community, Nangali community, Bolale community, Ghombu community South Guadalcanal: Malagheti, Peo, Kuma, Haliatu, Raeavu, Koleulawith	Guadalcanal province: North West Guadalcanal & East Central Guadalcanal constituencies.	NWG: Selwyn college, Maravovo, Cholala, Visale, Tamboko, Kakabona, Tanagai, Barana, Vatukola, Tamboko, Tanaghai Parish, Vatukulau. East Central Guadalcanal: Bilitania, Kopiu, Avuavu station, Marau Market and Mangautu.
Hearts of Hope (HoH)	East Kwaio, West Kwaio (Malaita province)	Ogou Village, Kwaimela, Kingstone, Balafi, Oloburi Community High School, Nunubilau, Nunubilau Community High School, Malou, Gounabusu, Gounabusu Community high School, Abitona, Canaan, Ilanunu, Sifilo, Naau, Kwariakwa, Asimana, Baunani, Maolaiala, Maa, Kwaa and Ngariwane, Faubaba, Gwale (correct name and spelling Kware)	Malaita province: East Kwaraáe & West AreAre constituencies	East Kwaraáe: Nazareth, Aekafo, Gatesamani, Manulele, Tabakwaru, Nafinua, Anofiu/Foubaba, Anoasia, Ngongosila, Kwai, Foumamanu, Uatae West Are Are: Tavairoi, Uhu, Narikeara, pipisu, Aiarae, Wairokai, Waisisi, Kiu, Hauporo/Wairaha, Tawaimarea
TEFILA (Malaita)	Fataleka, Baegu/Asifola (Malaita province)	Kware, Kakalano, Gwaunatafu, Sisifu, Tasisi, Manaere, Ata'a, Sulufou, Rufoki and Subobonu of Fataleka Constituency, Malaita province. Baegu constituency: Gwaunatolo/Fouia, Sulione/Aiaofia and Bush Communities, Fersubua Community, Manabeu, lilifia, Usu sue Catholic Mission Station, Kofiloko community, Ailali, Whitestone community	Malaita province : West Kwara'ae & Small Malaita constituencies	West Kwaraae: Fiu, Gwaunaru, Buma, Gwaunaoa, Bio, Fote, Dala-South, Kakara, Aota, and Boboilangi. Small Malaita: Roone, Fanalei, Walande, Saa, Liwe, Parasi, Tarapaine, Sarawasi, and Riverside. Total 600 sets of voter education materials were distributed in Roone, Kalona, Bulu, Uunimenu, Oloha, and Taramate communities.
Stages of Change (SoC) Theatre	Rennell Bellona Islands (Rennell and Bellona province)	Matamoana, Ngongna, Pauta, Matangi, Hutuna, Tegano, Lavangu, Tahanuku, Gongona	Choiseul province: North West Choiseul & South Choiseul constituencies	Paranui Community, Sasamunga High School and Sasamunga Community, Nukiki Community, Taro Market, Vurango Community, Sirovanga, Chivoko, Molevanga, Choiseul Bay High School and Taro Community
FRIENDS OF the CITY (Honiara)	East Honiara, Central Honiara West Honiara (Honiara)	East Honiara: Burns Creek soccer field, Phatina SSEC compound, Gilbert Camp, Anglican road front, Fulisango SSEC field Central Honiara: Kaibia SSEC community, Tuvaruhu Community, Lord Howe Settlement, Choviri Community West Honiara: Tasahe A Area, Buburu/Lengakiki Community, Windy Valley Community, Namoruka Community		
Church of Melanesia (ACOM)	Gao/Bugotu Constituency; Marine/Kokota (Isabel province)	Tausese village of Gao/Bugotu constituency; Kolomosu, Kmaga, Buala villages of Marine Kokota constituency.		

CSO	First Phase-constituency	Communities	Second Phase-constituency	Communities
Nuo THEATRE Trust Board			Temotu province: Pele & Nende constituencies	<p>Pele: NTTB covered following villages - Nyivale, Laro, Lipe/Nyibanga, Temoa, Nyimoa /Balipa'a, Otelo/Ngamanyie/ Nyialo, Nopali, Nyibanga, Nende/Banepe, Nyieli/ngamubulou, Nenubo, Otabwe/ Ngamanyie/Manuopo, Ngamanyie, Ngawaa/Nola, Ngadeli/Ngarado, Nipiloli/ Matema/Pileni, Tanga/Nuwaa, Malapu/ Nganamaala'a, Malobu, Tuo</p> <p>Nende: the villages covered were – Lata market, Nea/Neboi, Neba/maneputi, Nole, Noipe, Vanga/ Nyela, Mrnau/Uta/ Banua, YO'O/ Naban, Malo/Menevi, Nangu, Bamoi /Bonate/Bibir, Gaito /Akaboi/ Ma'ango, Gaito, Mango juice /kaLa bay/ Noka, Niumatema/Manepina/Manelu/ Naban, Landing wharf, Matu, Nyivale, Lipe & Nyimoa, Ngamubulou & Nenubo, Nieli & Banepe, Napali, Otelo, Ngamanie, Otambe, Laro, Malobu, tuo, Nialo, Manuopo.</p>
Nggela Forum Trust Board (NFTB)			Central Islands Province: Ngella constituency	<p>Soso-Sandfly/Buena Vista; Olevuga-Sandfly/Buena Vista; Leitongo - Sandfly/Buena Vista; Toga- Big Gella; Vura- Big Gella; Polomuhu- Big Gella; Boromole- Big Gella; Gairavu - Big Gella; Taroaniara- Big Gella; Aviavi- Big Gella; Halavo- Small Gella; Voloa- Small Gella; Bokolonga- Small Gella; Vunuha- Small Gella; Gumba- Small Gella; Dende- Small Gella; Vurenimala- Small Gella; Longapolo- Small Gella; Vuturua- Small Gella; Salesapa- Small Gella; Kobe- Small Gella; Belaga- Small Gella; Tulagi- Central Provincial Head Qrt</p> <p>West Makira: Tawatana, Ubuna, Tetere, Heuru, Asimanioha, Borodao</p>
Tawatana Community Conservation and Development Association (TCCDA)			Makira Province: East Makira & West Makira constituencies	East Makira: Toraa, Tawaroga, Nahuhu, Maniate, Toroa, Ramah
Transparency Solomon Islands				Central province (Ngella); Malaita province (East Are Are, South Malaita); Western province (South and North Vella la Vella): Choiseul Province (South and North/west Choiseul): Makira province (East and Central Makira)

Appendix 03: NGE 2019 timeline

Timeline - General Election 2019	
18 December 2018	Parliament Dissolved – General election must be held within 4 months
5 February 2019	Governor-General's formal Proclamation – must be at least 56 days before General election
5 February 2019	Notice of the General Election published in the Gazette
5 February 2019	Candidate Nominations open
6 February 2019	Notice of General Election published in each Ward
20 February 2019	Candidate Nominations close
20 February 2019	List of all Nominated Candidates published by Returning Officers
20 February 2019	Ballot paper draw
22 February 2019	Last day for Candidate Withdrawals
20 March 2019	Final Notice of the General Election by Returning Officers, incl. Polling Hours; Lists of Candidates; Lists of Polling Station locations and Final Voter Lists
21 March 2019	Pre Polling – one day only
24 March 2019	Last day for the appointment of Polling and Counting Agents
1 April 2019	Last day of campaigning
2 April 2019	Quiet day
3 April 2019	Polling Day

Appendix 04: Capacity building support to CSOs

CSOs name	Training/workshop title	Date
Tefila, Stages of Changes, DSE, Oxfam, SISAC	Reflection workshop with NGE 2019 observers & Provincial Assembly Elections (PAE) monitors	8 Aug 2019
Tefila and Stages of Changes	Provincial Assemblies Elections (PAE) 2019 monitoring	12 June 2019
Oxfam, SISAC, DSE	NGE observation	22 March 2019
Solomon Islands Association of People with Disabilities (PWDs)	Voter awareness training & PWDs mapping	26-27 Feb 2019
Hearts of Hope, Tefila, Guadalcanal Provincial Council of Women, Stages of Change, Tawatana Community Conservation Development Association, Ngela Forum Trust Board (NFTB) and Nuo Theatre Trust Board, Church of Melanesia (ACOM)	Reflection & lesson learned documentation workshop	23-25 Jan 2019
Hearts of Hope, Tefila, Guadalcanal Provincial Council of Women, Stages of Change, TSI, MASI, Friend of the City, Church of Melanesia (ACOM)	Orientation on face to face voter awareness activities implementation & reporting to SECSIP	4 July 2018
Hearts of Hope, Tefila, Guadalcanal Provincial Council of Women, Stages of Change, TSI, MASI, Friend of the City, Church of Melanesia (ACOM), VTT, Destiny Global, SIALC, DSE	Voter awareness stakeholder mapping	7 June 2018
Faith groups of Makira province	TOT on voting system demonstration	14-16 Dec 2017
Solomon Star, Island Sun, SIBC, Solomon Fresh-beat online	Media & Election training in Auki	25-29 Sep 2017
Solomon Star, Island Sun, SIBC, Solomon Fresh-beat online	Media & Election training in Gizo	21-25 Aug 2017
Matangi Women's Association	Film making, script writing, & use of camera	14-18 August 2017
SINU, SIBC, Sunday Isles, Solomon Star, Paoa FM, ZFM, LTV Online, Solomon Fresh Beat online, Island Sun, Barava FM, Voice Blo Mere	Media & Election (8 trainings) trainings in Honiara	8, 15, 22, 29 April; 6, 13, 20, 27 May 2017
Tefila, Destiny Global Development Agency, Solomon Islands Association of Community Learning Centres (SIALC), Hearts of Hope	Voter awareness activities implementation & reporting under UNDP micro-grant	29 Nov – 1 Dec 2016

Appendix 05: Updated risk log at the end of the project

Risk	Mitigation Action	Timeframe	Progress of Mitigation Action (s)
Non-implementation/deferral of electoral events and project support activities due to measures adopted to prevent the spread of COVID19 pandemic.	Alternative working arrangements in accordance with UNDP Business Continuity Plan (BCP); prioritization of deliverables that do not require community gatherings and travel (i.e. policy & manuals review, preparation of workshop/training contents; design of awareness materials); engagement of consultants to work remotely	On-going from March 2020	Remote working arrangements in place in line with UNDP BCP. Identification of project activities to be carried by Project under COVID 10 scenario presented and endorsed by Electoral Commission on 26 March 2020
Engagement of stakeholders by the Electoral Commission is not as extensive as originally envisaged	Activating inter agency coordination body, IMEEOC for better collaboration of national general election Collaboration between SIEC and RSIPF. SECSIP envisages activities to enhance engagement of stakeholders (public, government ministries, donors and CSOs). This may involve collaboration mechanisms to build awareness and encourage participation.	Not active (operative Nov 2018-May 2019) To be reactivated (subject to COVID 19) for the preparation of by-elections To be reactivated Not active due to COVID 19 (to be reactivated subject to Govt. measures on COVID 100)	The IMEEOC commenced its coordination activities at the beginning of 2019 and remain operative until May 2019. The reactivation of the IMEEOC as a transversal inter-departmental mechanism facilitates the coordination amongst state agencies in the lead up to electoral events The Electoral Office (EO) signed a MOU with RSIPF (in September 2018) to facilitate coordination of electoral related security issues Partnerships had been established with CSOs, religious/faith groups and private sector. This has enhanced outreach of voter awareness and dissemination of supporting materials. Efforts have also been made to build CSO capacity through periodical meetings and, one to one coaching. Grant support provided to CSOs till May 2019.
Electoral Legal Framework passed by Parliament too close to the election. This may affect EO capacity to implement its mandate. It will also affect Adoption of subsidiary legislation, development of procedures and socialization of new legal provisions in a timely fashion.	Engagement of technical expertise for legislative drafting. Identification of priorities to be developed through subsidiary legislation.	Completed in September 2018 To be reactivated to resume legal reform in line with mandate extension and SIEC Electoral Reform Strategy	By-elections will be conducted in accordance with current legal framework with possible adjustments of the regulations Possible adjustment of previous regulations may be necessary (for example with respect to addition of new categories of voters entitled to use the mechanism of pre-poll) SECSIP jointly with ESSP to continue to support EO Need for legal technical expertise for the review and continuous development of the Electoral Legal Framework, including the Political Parties Bill not yet debated in Parliament.

Risk	Mitigation Action	Timeframe	Progress of Mitigation Action (s)
Capacity constraints in key institutions (SIEC/EO, PPC, Ministry of Home Affairs) to implement and participate in electoral activities.	Careful and pragmatic prioritisation, planning and sequencing of activities together with stakeholders.	On-going	SECSIP expertise to work with Electoral and provide support in the lead up to the 2020 by-elections and post-election lessons learned exercises.
Vulnerability given the dependability of biometric voter registration system from a foreign commercial vendor. Access to sensitive data. No appropriated data recovery processes and infrastructure. No sustainability (technical, human & financial)	Technical assessment of biometric voter registration system and proposal of a plan endorsed by CEO with a view to contribute to the enhancement of BVR reliability and sustainability.	On-going	While no voter registration is expected to be conducted in 2020, coordination on future technical advice and support amongst development partners is encouraged. To this end, SECSIP CTA met and shared information with IFES during their scoping mission for the design of future assistance.
Voter registration update does not include all eligible citizens. Citizens who have turned out 18 (an important segment of the voting population) need to be included. Those who have deceased have to be deleted from the roll.	A national voter registration campaign to update the voters' roll was for the 2019 NGE was conducted from September 2018 to January 2019 updated in 2018/2019	Not active	No voter registration is expected to be conducted in 2020. The estimated percentage of citizens included in the 2018-2019 voter registration is within 85 to 90% of the eligible population. (https://drive.google.com/open?id=1Zy-Ql8R-qIxEt5L41B-j5WdWQbiaBK6t7)
Significant number of cross-constituency voter registration (vagueness of 'ordinarily resident')	Review of the 2018 Electoral Act provisions on 'the meaning of ordinarily resident'	Not active	No voter registration is expected to be conducted in 2020 More detailed objection forms contribute to the consistency and coherence of the decision-making process, as well as build the knowledge of the electorate with respect to the objection process and assist the SIEC for lessons learned exercises.
		On-going	No voter registration is expected to be conducted in 2020 and by-elections will be conducted utilizing 2018-2019 voters' roll.
		Not active	Electoral Commission has developed a paper on these issues which is to be discussed with Parliament (March/April 2020) with a view to amend the 2018 Electoral Act and revise 'the meaning of ordinarily resident' in the 2018 EA
		Not active	Review of voter registration objection forms proposed by SECSIP and endorsed by the SIEC which introduced for the first-time grounds and a non-exhaustive list of possible documentary evidence for registration.
	Support to awareness efforts with a view to enhance inclusiveness and reliability of the roll: Support to awareness efforts with a view to enhance inclusiveness and reliability of the roll: - Targeting key segments of the population to encourage (youth, women, rural population in remote locations) - Design actions and products to explain the 'ordinarily residence' criteria and encourage registration accordingly	On-going	

Risk	Mitigation Action	Timeframe	Progress of Mitigation Action (s)
	Support to preparation of technical papers on continuous registration and related issues	Not active (no registration being conducted)	
An increasingly contested electoral environment may result in more focus on issues related to poor electoral administration as a basis for contesting elections. This may place electoral authorities under a greater degree of pressure and may politicise electoral processes	<p>Electoral preparations adequately account for the potential of increased local contestation.</p> <p>Ensure this is reflected in robust electoral preparations including training and logistical arrangements so that electoral officials will be better placed to respond to pressures applied by candidates</p> <p>Accreditation of electoral observers (international and national)</p>	<p>On-going</p> <p>On-going</p> <p>Being reactivated for 2020 by-elections</p>	<p>Support to the EO Head of Operation to timely design and implement electoral operational plan. Plan/design of formative actions to enhance capacities of temporary staff.</p> <p>To build transparency and commitment of relevant officials, SECSIP proposed and design a pledge certificate as part of the trainings and contributed to manuals and materials. Review of training materials</p> <p>Adoption of measures to provide an enabling environment and facilitate the participation of domestic observers.</p> <p>SECSIP initiated planning and contacts with CSO entities for possible monitoring of by-elections. Guidelines to encourage inclusiveness (as provided in 2019 NGE) will be provided</p> <p><i>Note: During the NGE was facilitated by SECSIP through a partnership with DSE (Development Service Exchange)/ SISAC (SI Social Accountability Coalition). SECSIP provided guidelines to encourage the inclusiveness which resulted in 167 domestic observers from national CSOs being accredited (74 women observers and 7 from SI Association of People with Disabilities).</i></p>
Election-related violence arises	<p>Information and awareness actions/products to explain the electorate the rationale of legal requirements and contribute to reduce frustration (particular focus on electoral offences & penalties).</p> <p>Local communities, and key local institutions such as churches, can have an important role to play in helping manage election related conflict.</p> <p>Security planning should include sufficient focus on police training and community outreach as part of election-related security operations.</p>	<p>On-going</p> <p>Face to face currently on hold due to COVID 19 scenario and postponement of by-elections</p> <p>To be reactivated for upcoming by-elections</p>	<p>SECSIP designed/supported awareness products on election offences, contributed to face to face awareness interactions through micro-grant agreements and range of products included posters, videos, hotline and radio talk back shows.</p> <p>Review of materials with a view to design/reprint. Current planning of radio programmes on voter awareness to be launched</p> <p>Information sharing mechanisms through SIEC/RSIPF Joint Operation Center established under MOU were in place ahead of NGE 2019. SECSIP technical expertise to support and enhance coordination of information sharing between the two institutions.</p>

Risk	Mitigation Action	Timeframe	Progress of Mitigation Action (s)
<p>Natural disasters impacting directly on EMB and project support ability to implement activities</p>	<p>Electoral Office to strengthen information sharing with the National Disaster Centre</p> <p>Where possible, planning schedule/timeliness for activity implementation allocating buffer period to enable adjustments</p> <p>Consideration should be given to review/introduce legal provisions providing mechanisms to enable EO to react in such scenarios.</p> <p>Previous case: During the national general election candidate nomination period (February 2019), due to difficult weather conditions many candidates were not able to travel to their nomination centres located in the constituency for which they had submitted their candidacy. This triggered the adoption by the Electoral Commission to open second nomination centres located at provincial capitals enabling the timely completion of the candidates' nomination. However, this required previous consultation with the Attorney General as clarity on legal provision was needed</p>	<p>On-going</p>	<p>Information sharing on weather and marine forecasts to be received by Electoral Office Head of Operation (UNDP facilitated contacts to this effect)</p> <p>Timeline initially considered for June by-elections (now suspended) was looking at having proclamation by Governor General with more than the minimum of 56 days legal requirement.</p> <p>New dates/timeline subject to COVID 19. CEO referred that discussions on the call for by-elections is to be resumed once the State of Alarm is lifted.</p>



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<https://Solomon-Islands.ec-undp-electoral assistance.org/>



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