



United Nations Development Programme, Afghanistan
Enhancing Legal and Electoral Capacity for Tomorrow (ELECT)
QUARTERLY PROJECT REPORT
[01/07/2008 – 31/09/2008]



One of the public outreach posters explaining phases of voter registration

Project ID: 00050324
Duration: 51 Months (01/10/2008 – 31/12/2010)
Component (MYFF): Goal 2 / Service line 2.1
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Implementing Partners/Responsible parties:
Independent Election Commission of Afghanistan

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I. IMPLEMENTATION PROGRESS

1.0 Introduction

In conformance with agreement reached during June 2008 Paris Conference at which the international community underlined the need to broaden support to electoral programming for the 2008-2010 electoral cycle, the Enhancing Legal and Electoral Capacity for Tomorrow (ELECT) project document was substantively revised in July 2008.

The thrust of ELECT programming during this reporting period (July-September) was on output 4 (voter registration). This report therefore only provides an overview of the various Output 4 activities that ELECT supported between July and September inclusive as indicated below.

1.1 Assist IEC through the Provision of Salaries and a Payment System for all Temporary Staff

With the voter registration exercise confirmed to start in October through approximately 600 registration centres, the IEC projected that more than 4000 registration teams would be required for the task. During the quarter, UNDP/ELECT in conjunction with the IEC developed a framework to govern flow of payments from ELECT project to the IEC to cover operational expenses, including payment of salaries for temporary voter registration staff.

ELECT pursued a Letter of Agreement (LoA) with the IEC to allow the transfer of operational advances to the IEC. The devolution of financial responsibilities to IEC by UNDP/ELECT would represent an important step in building the capacity of the IEC to manage the finance and administration issues of future electoral operations. A number of international advisors were assigned to the IEC to support the IEC finance/administration unit to further refine procedures for payments. Prior to concluding the LoA, UNDP conducted an assessment of the IEC capacity to manage payments for provincial offices; running costs; and temporary staff before signing.

1.2 Procure Equipment and Commodities for Voter Registration

During the reporting period, UNDP/ELECT emphasised the need for, and undertook measures to build capacity of the local market to more effectively and competitively participate in tendering for goods and services for the 2009 and 2010 elections. In July, the UNDP Procurement Support Office (PSO) in Copenhagen fielded a mission to Afghanistan not only to assist in fast-tracking procurement processes for voter registration; but also to brief local companies on procurement procedures and provide guidance to the IEC on procurement planning.

By the end of the reporting period, 4,500 registration kits, 450 camera kits, 8,000 car batteries, envelopes, blue boxes, 20 armoured vehicles, 59 Diesel Generators (32Kva, 65Kva and 110Kva) for regional and provincial offices, 4,000 digital inverters, voter registration forms, stationary, kit boxes, registration centre banners, 450 voter registration training kits, training manuals and flipcharts, laptops for the technical assistance team, spare parts for the IEC vehicle management unit and some other materials had been delivered to the IEC Headquarters in Kabul. Additional vehicles, camera kits, were due to arrive during the next quarter.

In addition, orders were finalized for over 500 computers for the IEC regional and provincial offices; extension of Local Area Network (LAN) was completed at the IEC Headquarters to accommodate the new surge of international electoral advisors; while preparations for plastic furniture and boxes with lids for distribution to 14 provinces (Phase I) were completed by close of the reporting period.

An inventory of IEC equipment in the warehouse was ongoing; while specifications for additional assets had been prepared and submitted to UNDP/ELECT procurement unit for further action. During the quarter, UNDP/ELECT signed an MoU with Afghanistan New Beginnings Programme (ANBP) to take over their regional offices. This enabled IEC regional staff to relocate into these fully-equipped MOSS-compliant ANBP/ELECT premises. Security Construction work (Stage II) also started at IEC compound.

1.3 Procure Communication Equipment and Materials for the Data Centre

During the reporting period, specifications for data entry centre equipment and biometric software were developed. An electronic communication plan was drafted for the IEC and submitted for translation and approval. In addition, Data Entry speed and accuracy test program and multi-language interface were completed. Internet bandwidth was increased for the IEC compound in general.

The Data Centre Management Advisor arrived in the country and was introduced to the IEC Management and IT Department in September 2008.

1.3 Facilitate Transportation of Voter Registration Materials and Personnel

During the reporting period, IEC instructed all the 14 provincial officers in the first phase to identify new locations for electoral offices as the current office buildings they were using were not large enough to accommodate 30 to 35 staff and/or large number of vehicles and equipments at a time. Specifications for the new offices were elaborated by the IEC Field Operations department.

UNDP/ELECT in collaboration with IEC initiated plans for deployment of UNDP ELECT regional and provincial advisors. Several planning groups were instituted to expedite preparations for deployment of voter registration materials and personnel. Working closely with various IEC department heads, the planning groups defined immediate post-deployment tasks – which were agreed as assisting the IEC to set up offices, finalising the location of the voter registration centres, and recruiting and training of voter registration staff – among others.

The procurement of armoured vehicles during the reporting period satisfied one of the major MOSS preconditionalities for deploying International Electoral Advisors to insecure regions and provinces. In preparation for deployment, all Provincial and Regional Electoral Advisors were briefed over a three-day period on field management and coordination structures, reporting arrangements, cultural and political sensitivities in Afghanistan, logistical issues, electoral procedures, training protocols, and others. In addition, all field personnel received mandatory

security training on 24 and 25 September.

By end of September, voter registration training materials had been dispatched to all Phase 1 provinces – in some cases with support from the United Nations Assistance Mission for Afghanistan (UNAMA) air services to ensure materials did not arrive late. Registration materials (registration, camera kits, envelopes, car batteries, furniture) were also delivered to provincial IEC offices. All provinces involved in the first phase had vehicles to facilitate movements in preparation for the commencement of voter registration. Following the dispatch of 137 computers to provincial offices, IEC embarked on networking of the provincial office to ease communication.

Thus despite some earlier apprehension that procurement would delay the start of voter registration, all registration materials arrived in country and were processed through customs in time for distribution to provinces in the first phase of registration. The only set back to the delivery process occurred on September 27, when a truck carrying voter registration materials was ambushed and burned by unknown people in Nuristan province.

1.5 Support Public Outreach Activities

UNDP/ELECT engaged two consultants to support message development and testing, and to finalise the public outreach strategy. ISAF offered to provide over 250 billboards and assist with Public Service Announcements as part of the IEC's nationwide public outreach campaign.

During the reporting period, a 10 minute video documentary about voter registration procedures; TV and radio spots were produced. The documentary, TV and radio spots would be broadcast on national and local TV and radio stations as part of the national electoral public outreach strategy. In addition, five different types of public outreach billboards were designed namely: (1) a map of Afghanistan with the 4 phases of voter registration; (2) a billboard for general information [register today to vote tomorrow]; (3) a billboard that links voter registration with reconstruction of the country; (4) a billboard targeting women; and (5) one for the youths [Brothers! Friends! Will you turn 18 in September 2009? Come and register!] Up to 400 billboards would be printed and installed all over the country.

UNDP/ELECT supported IEC to procure printing services for voter education materials comprising of 1,700 flipcharts, 250,000 posters, 500,000 leaflets, and 300,000 booklets. These materials would be used by the IEC Civic Educators during face-to-face meetings with the electorate. IEC also finalised arrangements for nation-wide SMS messaging and a national toll-free call centre to educate the public about voter registration.

The public outreach campaign for the IEC was officially launched on 21 September when the IEC's Deputy Chief Electoral Officer (Mr. Zekria Barakzai) unveiled the different public outreach activities/tools to the international and domestic media. The 10-minute documentary on voter registration was played to the media during the official launch.

During the reporting period, ELECT Project sought to engage with some of stakeholders with a view to improving dissemination of the Voter Registration Update Procedures at the local level.

Initial contacts were established with the National Democratic Institute (NDI) and Fair Elections Foundation of Afghanistan (FEFA) to discuss engagement modalities and possible contractual terms. A formal agreement will most likely be reached with these institutions during the next quarter. Moreover, the International Organization for Migration (IOM) showed willingness to support activities of FEFA as the umbrella organisation for domestic electoral observation and monitoring institutions.

1.6 Train IEC personnel including short term voter registration staff

The IEC training department developed a registration procedures manual which was approved by management. The manual elaborates duties of registration staff, voter registration steps, lists of materials and all procedural steps related to materials delivery and retrieval. Procedural graphics/pictures (graphical flow charts for registration steps) were incorporated into the manual for ease of comprehension. The layout of voter registration forms were also elaborated in the procedures manual. A trainer's guide for voters' education was also developed during the quarter. Both the trainers guide and the registration procedures manual were translated into Dari and Pashto dialects.

Several training sessions were organised and successfully delivered over the reporting period. Simulation on voter registration procedures was done for International Advisors, donor organizations, media, IEC provincial security and logistic staff, and other stakeholders. Between 30 August and 1 September, the IEC trained 40 Provincial Public Outreach Officers (PPOO) from the 14 phase 1 provinces, 11 of whom were women. The training has elaborated the new voter registration process, who is eligible to register as a voter, the public outreach methodology, materials and tools – including role of public outreach small grant projects to help deepen voter education at the local level.

The training of PPOOs was shortly followed by provincial level training sessions between 13 and 14 September, during which 540 IEC civic educators were guided on how to operationalise the voter registration procedures manual and other public outreach tools (see table 1 below for distribution of trained civic educators). All provincial-level training of civic educators was fully facilitated by PPOOs. Five of these sessions were monitored by the Public Outreach staff of the IEC Headquarters. Civic educators will apply the skills they acquired from the training to conduct local level face-to-face meetings about the new registration process.

Table 1. Distribution of Civic Educators Trained

#	Name of Province	No. of Trainees	#	Name of Province	No. of Trainees
1	Badakhshan	72	8	Daikundi	30
2	Kunar	44	9	Parwan	34
3	Nuristan	28	10	Takhar	52
4	Panjsher	22	11	Kapisa	26
5	Wardak	38	12	Logar	30
6	Ghor	38	13	Saripul	24
7	Bamyan	28	14	Ghazni	74

Total	540
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A three-day training of trainers (TOT) course was conducted from 16 to 18 September at the IEC HEADQUARTERS for 29 Provincial Training Officers (14 female; 15 male) from the first phase provincial offices. Participants received practical training on camera and printer functions and voter registration steps. During the reporting period, UNDP Country Office approved funding for Maharams to accompany female trainees to Kabul and this ensured all the targeted female employees participated.

Packing and distribution of field training Kits started alongside the training of trainers. Despite the delayed arrival of some materials, Logistics and Training Department managed to finalize and prepare training kits. Distribution of training kits started on 20 September and finished on 21-22 September.

Further, a general training for all IEC national at the IEC Headquarters was organised to create awareness about electoral planning, procedures and management. The first of such training was delivered on 15 September for staff of the Planning and Procedures department. These were expected to train staff from other departments in due course. With support from The Asian Foundation (TAF), the IEC training department organised security training for 14 Provincial Election Officers (PEOs) and 14 Security officers from the first phase provinces.

During the reporting period, IEC recruited two additional temporary staff members to support the training department: a Training Officer and a Training Assistant. Both are female and have substantial experience in teaching methodologies and elections management.

1.7 Provide Advice on External Relations, Media Conferences and Stakeholder Fore

Throughout the quarter, UNDP and UNAMA maintained their lead advisory role to the IEC to improve messaging and content, consistency and accuracy of external relations and media reporting.

The IEC formally announced the upcoming voter registration exercise in a press conference on July 9, 2008. In the press conference, IEC confirmed that the voter registration process will aim to capture all eligible voters who currently reside in Afghanistan with a focus on:

- a) Who have not been registered during the previous voter registration exercises;
- b) Who have lost their previous voter registration cards, or the particulars on the card are not visible;
- c) Those citizens of the country who may have migrated from the limits of one constituency to another constituency;
- d) The new repatriates; and
- e) The Afghan citizens who have lately reached the eligible voting age.

IEC also confirmed that previous voter registration cards will remain valid for the 2009 elections.

A press conference with members of the local press was held to launch the public information drive regarding voter registration. The IEC also held several interviews with the press to explain plans for security as it relates to the Joint Order between the Ministry of Interior (MoI), Ministry

of Defence (MoD), and NATO/ISAF. In addition, it announced the beginning of the accreditation period for observers, political parties and media institutions effective September 20, 2008

1.8 Provide international and national technical assistance to the IEC

UNDP/ELECT secured the assistance of the regional bureau to expedite processing of medical clearances in New York so as to streamline the recruitment of international advisors. Forty four international staff joined the project team during the reporting period. Twelve of the newly-appointed staff is UN volunteers. There are six women among all the staff recruited (see table 2 below). More than half of the international staff joining the ELECT comprise of electoral advisors who will be attached to the IEC. It is projected this number will increase in the next quarter.

Table 2: ELECT/IEC Recruitment Status as per 30 September 2008

Staff Category	Recruited July-Sept 2008		Total Staff on-board to date (including those recruited before July)	
	Male	Female	Male	Female
UNVs	10	2	16	5
International staff (ALD)	24	4	25	9
SSA	6	0	12	0
Total	40	6	53	14

During the reporting period, IEC recruited all District Field Coordinators for the Phase 1 provinces. Interviews were conducted for several national staff positions, culminating into the filling of 32 positions at the IEC Headquarters.

1.9 Conduct and Finalise Planning for ELECT Outputs 5 and 6

A planning process to develop the scope of work for Output 6 was undertaken by a small team supported by experts funded by DFID and CIDA, working closely with the ELECT management team. It is projected that a detailed scope of work and budget for Output 6 and an indicative budget for Output 5 will be put to donors in later October /early November to allow for the release of 2008 funding for these 2009/10 activities.

1.10 Manage and Coordinate UNDP/ELECT

Further to the agreements reached at the June 2008 Paris Conference at which the international community underlined the importance of holding elections in 2009 and 2010 and the need to broaden support to electoral programming for the 2008-2010 electoral cycle, UNDP/ELECT revised the ELECT Project document to align the Project with the additional electoral programming thrusts envisaged during forthcoming electoral cycle.

The new project document was presented to donors for their review on 4th August who agreed on its approval with minor amendments. The substantive revision of the ELECT Project Document was subsequently signed by the IEC and UNDP on 6 August.

The substantive revision of the ELECT Project Document introduced three new Outputs for the ELECT project, namely:

- Output 4: Strengthen the IEC's capacity to design and implement a sustainable national voter registration program, to inform and engage the Afghan public, and to deliver a credible voter register in time for national elections in 2009 and 2010.
- Output 5: Support the IEC in the delivery of credible, sustainable electoral processes in 2009 and 2010
- Output 6: Support the broader electoral framework through capacity building, engagement with and support to civic and voter education, media development, political parties, domestic observation and emerging issues as agreed.

The ELECT project was managed and implemented by the Project Management Unit (PMU) located in premises adjacent to UNDP. Through a technical team of Advisors situated at the IEC Headquarters, ELECT enabled IEC to coordinate and harmonize the respective inputs from all electoral support partners, and promote efficient and effective resource allocation. In compliance with donor requirements, ELECT developed a comprehensive M&E plan and a risk management framework.

In discussion with donors, the ELECT coordination architecture was instituted during the reporting period. The structure provides for:

- a) a Project Board as required under UNDP regulations;
- b) a donor group comprising political and development representation, to meet monthly to review policy and emerging issues;
- c) a Steering Committee which includes a co-chairing role for the IEC, to meet monthly and provide oversight to the ELECT project; and
- d) the PMU to manage the project on a day to day basis.

ELECT's coordination structure took effect in August 2008, with inaugural Project Board and Steering Committee meetings. Further to these core coordination structures, UNAMA hosted weekly stakeholder meetings for implementing partners wherein the IEC directly reported. IEC also hosted weekly security coordination meetings with UNAMA, MoI, MoD and NATO/ISAF.

Moreover, high level coordination meetings were convened as required. For instance, meetings of both the elections donor groups and technical steering committee meeting took place in August and September to discuss thematic issues, including support to gender mainstreaming in IEC's work. Internally, UNDP made significant progress towards the establishment of transparency mechanisms, including detailed monthly reporting to donors on the ways in which their funds are being implemented. Weekly technical advisors' meeting between ELECT and International Foundation for Electoral System (IFES) also took place to harmonise, coordinate and consolidate international electoral support to the IEC.

Given the deteriorating security in the country, and the negative implications such could have on voter registration, UNDP/ELECT in collaboration with IEC continuously engaged with security agencies to forecast possible scenarios and mitigation strategies.

On 24 August 2008, a joint order clarifying specific security management tasks for different stakeholders was signed by IEC, MoI, MoD and NATO/ISAF. The joint order which also outlined a general communications framework on electoral security, earmarked the MoI as the lead agency responsible for voter registration security with perimeter support provided by Afghan National Army (ANA). NATO/ISAF would provide back up support in extreme scenarios. In line with the general communications framework prescribed in the joint order, the IEC established a weekly operational/security review mechanism to facilitate increased sharing of information pertinent to the voter registration update process, and carry out practical planning and problem solving.

To ensure efficiency of Afghan National Police (ANP) with regard to voter registration security, IEC in consultation with MoI developed a pocket-sized guide book on police conduct, and briefed all MoI Regional and Provincial police commanders about the voter registration security plan. The commanders were urged, and would be expected to develop their own specific regional/provincial plans in conjunction with ISAF, MoD, National Defence Services (NDS) and IEC actors.

II. PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION CHALLENGES

One of the challenges faced by UNDP/ELECT during the reporting period was associated with IEC provincial and regional offices. With the exception of 7 regional capitals where ANBP had offices which they passed on to ELECT through a formal MoU, IEC needed to set up operational bases in 27 provinces. It proved cumbersome to identify office locations which were large enough to accommodate up to 35 personnel. Moreover, all the identified field offices had to be made MOSS-compliant before they could be occupied. In addition, they had to be furnished with furniture, generators, internet connectivity, and assorted office equipment. In several provinces, IEC failed to locate suitable office space, in which case they commissioned construction works for office blocks – with logistical support from UNDP/ELECT. This was not only expensive but also delayed the deployment of IEC field staff and international electoral advisors.

The overall security situation in the country continued to deteriorate during the reporting period. UNDSS imposed several “White Cities” which hampered project work as staff could not report to their work stations. Insecurity also imposed restrictions on the deployment of voter registration materials and personnel into some regions. The anti-climax of insecurity occurred on 27 September when a convoy of trucks transporting voter registration materials was ambushed and burned in Nuristan province.

The project had a number of Human Resource (HR) disappointments involving several international candidate employees who declined their offers to join ELECT “at the last minute”. There were also delays in the arrival of newly-recruited international staff to Kabul owing to several factors such as slow medical clearance from UNDP Headquarters, visa-related constraints, employee procrastination, and others. Thus, the deployment of international staff took longer than expected, as was the development of IEC and UNDP/ELECT provincial

infrastructure.

Updated Project Risks and Actions

The Voter Registration Risk Analysis and Management framework developed during the last quarter was continuously and comprehensively reviewed throughout the reporting period. Donors, security agencies and other electoral stakeholders participated in the review of the Project's risk environment. The major risks to project success include those related to voter registration operations; communications and public outreach; security; political risks; and risks related to funding as explained below.

- a) Delayed procurement of voter registration materials: There was some apprehension that voter registration materials would not be procured and delivered in time to enable voter registration process to begin on schedule. However, all voter registration materials were delivered in time for distribution to provinces and districts.

Actions: To forestall a possible delay in the customs clearing process for voter registration materials, UNDP/ ELECT sought support from the President's Office to expedite processing of registration materials through customs. ELECT prepared a proposal for the IEC, which it presented to President's Office. The proposal specifically requested that the President's Office coordinates the relevant Ministries and Departments to ensure the smooth transfer of materials. A Presidential order was eventually issued on 6 September, directing the Ministry of Finance to ensure expeditious customs clearance of all voter registration/electoral procurement materials. As a result, the support provided by customs officials to IEC and UNDP/ELECT with regard to processing of voter registration materials was exceptionally good and ensured that phase 1 procurement deadlines were realised.

- b) Delayed deployment of voter registration materials and personnel: The deployment of international staff took longer than expected, as was the development of IEC and UNDP ELECT provincial infrastructure.

Actions: UNDP/ELECT made several attempts to expedite staff deployment. The HR SURGE Team mission from UNDP Headquarters in New York was brought in to help jump-start the recruitment process. In addition, a seconded HR Specialist from Belarus was brought in to speed up the process of recruitment until November. Moreover, UNDP/ELECT secured the assistance of the regional bureau to expedite processing of medical clearances in New York so as to streamline the recruitment of international advisors.

Provincial assessment field missions were undertaken to all the 14 Phase 1 provinces to determine the suitability of the proposed new offices in terms of compliance with UN security regulations. Several armoured vehicles were procured for use by IEC international electoral advisors deployed in the field. The assessments enabled the IEC to confirm electoral office locations for Wardak, Parwan, Kapisa, Daikundi, Saripul, Badakshan, Takhar, Ghor, Kunar, Logar, Gardez, Nuristan, Ghazni and Panshir. Additional potential offices were identified for Kabul.

- c) Inadequate IEC capacity for public outreach and external relations: There might be insufficient public outreach taking place at the local level. There are also questions over the IEC external relations capacity owing to its tendency to be protective of information.

Actions: UNDP/ELECT engaged two consultants to support message development and testing, and to finalise the public outreach strategy and recruited a full-time public outreach advisor to provide the necessary guidance. ELECT Project also sought to engage with some of stakeholders with a view to improving dissemination of the Voter Registration Update Procedures at the local level. Initial contacts were established with the National Democratic Institute (NDI) and Fair Elections Foundation of Afghanistan (FEFA).

- d) Insecurity: There were concerns about the volatility of the security situation and how such would impact on the voter registration process. These concerns were exacerbated by initial disagreements among security agencies about voter registration security strategies and the role each agency would play in voter registration.

Actions: On 9 August, the National Security Council (NSC) brought together planners from MoD, Mol and IEC to solve disagreements with regard to Voter Registration security. This was in response to an earlier cabinet recommendation to develop a more comprehensive security plan. On 12 August a high-level meeting took place at the Presidential Palace to present a joint proposal on security requirements for voter registration and cooperation between the MoD and Mol based on threat assessments.

A joint order clarifying specific security management tasks for different stakeholders was subsequently signed by IEC, Mol, MoD and NATO/ISAF on 24 August 2008. The joint order outlined a general communications framework on electoral security and earmarked the Mol as the lead agency responsible for voter registration security. ANA would provide perimeter support, while NATO/ISAF would be engaged in extreme scenarios. In line with the general communications framework prescribed in the joint order, the IEC established a weekly operational/security review mechanism to facilitate increased sharing of information pertinent to the voter registration update process, and carry out practical planning and problem solving.

To counter the potential obstacles to the voter registration exercise at the local level, the IEC, with support from the UN, held meetings with all stakeholders including Governors, Police Chiefs and other relevant agencies to discuss security coordination mechanisms at provincial and district levels.

Updated Project Issues and Actions

- (a) Debate on the draft Electoral Law: Debate on the draft Electoral Law delayed pending the resolution of the dispute between Kuchis and Hazaras over the number of seats allocated for Kuchis in the Wolesi Jirga. The Electoral Law must be passed one year before the date of elections in accordance with the intent of article 109 of the Constitution. It is now very unlikely at this point, that the electoral law will be passed in

time to govern the 2009 elections.

Actions: During the reporting period, the Wolesi Jirga (WJ) Special Commission to resolve the Kuchi/Hazara dispute on the allocated seats issue met and requested that IEC to submit a recommendation about the number of seats that should be allocated for Kuchis. As per its original position, the IEC reiterated 10 seats as provided for in the draft Electoral Law. The Wolesi Jirga had not met again to discuss the IEC's proposal by end of the reporting period.

- (b) IEC Structure Law: The Wolesi Jirga completed its debate on the IEC Structure Law on 6 September. Notable amendments to the law included (1) IEC Commissioners will be nominated by the President and confirmed by the Wolesi Jirga, (2) IEC Commissioners shall have only Afghan citizenship, and (3) Provincial Electoral Officers, District Field Coordinators and Chairpersons for polling stations cannot be selected from the local population in which they will be working. The WJ endorsed draft IEC Structure Law will now have to be passed by the Meshrano Jirga and then the President to become law.

Actions: None

- (c) Harmonisation of international electoral support to the IEC: Given the scale of involvement of various international electoral support agencies, there was a strong need to maintain a coordinated electoral support framework. In maintaining a coordinated electoral support framework, IEC being mindful of the lessons learnt from the 2004-2005 elections, when lack of coordination duplicated effort, hampered communication flow, and reduced efficiency and accountability.

Actions: Weekly meetings were held between the IEC, ELECT and IFES focusing on better coordination between the Technical Advice team and the IEC. IEC discussed and agreed on the scopes of work for United Nations Office for Project Services (UNOPS) and International Organization for Migration (IOM) during the voter registration process. During the reporting period, a Letter of Agreement has been signed with IOM for their support to the IEC clarifying that IOM will focus on strengthening payment systems for all IEC temporary staff. IOM would second four specialists to work within the IEC Administration/Finance department, two of whom had arrived by end of the reporting period. On the other hand, UNOPS will focus on developing and supporting IEC's administrative and financial systems at regional level.

- (d) Voter registration operations plan: There had been some apprehension that the voter registration update process would delay owing to several factors such as late procurements, insecurity, slow staff recruitment, etc. Despite this apprehension, IEC finalized its Operations Plan for Voter Registration and confirmed that Phase 1 will continue as planned starting October 6, 2008.

Actions: IEC conducted a series of planning meetings to clarify the main tasks to be carried out; responsibilities and detailed timelines for a successful registration update process; and the essential elements of the process – including security planning and

liaison mechanisms. In September, IEC held a press conference to announce that voter registration process will be conducted in four different phases owing to climatic and security challenges of the country. It further confirmed that there would be at least one voter registration centre at the district level; at least one registration centre at each Nahia level in urban areas; and mobile registration teams for nomadic Kuchis, hospitalised patients, prisoners not deprived of their civil rights, and officials of the military forces.

- (e) Role of Arbakai (tribal police) in voter registration: During the reporting period, the engagement of Arbakai as an auxiliary force to provide security for voter registration in rural areas was raised by a number of national stakeholders – citing the inability of ANP to provide comprehensive security coverage. MoI, ISAF and UN opposed the use of Arbakai owing to limited time to include them into the command & control structure, the potentially high maintenance cost, difficulties with ensuring smooth communications and information exchanges, and the uncertainty about how other armed elements would perceive their involvement.

Actions: With the start of voter registration underway and all the security apparatus fully laid out, it was apparent that debate on whether to involve Arbakai was too late. In this context, IEC decided that Arbakai will not be engaged to provide security during voter registration process.

III. FINANCIAL STATUS AND UTILISATION**Table 1: Contribution Overview [01.10.2006 – 31.12.2010]: Status as of 30.09.2008**

DONOR NAME	CONTRIBUTIONS		CONTRIBUTION BALANCE
	Committed	Received	
Denmark	657,194	666,108	-8,914
Italy	681,376	499,376	182,000
Canada/CIDA	4,786,069	862,069	3,924,000
UNDEF	336,567	336,567	0
UK*	10,561,634	11,003,361	-441,727
UNDP	237,640	237,640	0
Germany	10,000,000	10,000,000	0
Norway**	2,798,507	2,798,507	0
USAID	65,000,000	18,701,780	46,298,220
TOTAL	95,058,987	45,105,408	49,953,579

*Contribution received from DIFD amounting to \$ 9,007,354 not budgeted in September.

**Contribution received from Norway amounting to \$ 2,798,507 not budgeted in September.

Table 2: Summary of Expenditure for the period of 1st July- 30 September-08 by activity

ACTIVITY NAME	BUDGET 2008	EXPENDITURE			AVAILABLE FUNDING	DELIVERY RATE
		Q1-Q2 (Jan - June 2008)	Q3 (Jul. - Sept. 2008)	TOTAL		
Activity 1 - Capacity Building	843,216	693,699	61,387	755,086	88,130	90%
Activity 2 - Legal Support	49,729	49,729	0	49,729	0	100%
Activity 3 - Joint Civil & Voter Regis Exer.	1,881,620	268,504	1,272,281	1,540,785	340,835	82%
Activity 4 - Project Mgt & Tech. Support	752,062	585,723	-119,251	466,472	285,590	62%
Activity 5 - Voter Registration	26,930,272	-	18,571,350	18,571,350	8,358,922	69%
GMS	2,272,779	127,342	1,488,353	1,615,695	657,084	71%
Grant Total	32,729,678	1,724,997	21,274,120	22,999,117	9,730,561	70%

Table 3: Summary of Expenditure for the period of 1st July- 30th September -08 by Donor

DONOR NAME	ACTIVITY	BUDGET 2008	EXPENDITURE			AVAILABLE FUNDING	DELIVERY RATE
			Q1-Q2 (Jan - June 2008)	Q3 (Jul. - Sept. 2008)	TOTAL		
Denmark	ACTIVITY 01- Capacity Building	266,851	46,252	186,289	232,541	34,310	87%
	ACTIVITY04 - Project Mgt & Technical Support	318,472	155,367	65,396	220,763	97,709	69%
	UNDP GMS 7%	44,057	16,411	18,944	35,355	8,702	80%
Total Denmark		629,379	218,030	270,629	488,659	140,721	78%
Italy	ACTIVITY01 - Capacity Building	131,910	15,316	62,775	78,091	53,819	59%
	ACTIVITY03 - Joint Civil & Voter Regis Exer.	173,367	160,238	13,130	173,368	-1	100%
	ACTIVITY04 - Project Mgt & Technical Support	2,017	2,734	0	2,734	-717	136%
	UNDP GMS 7%	23,130	14,451	5,713	20,164	2,966	87%
Total Italy		330,424	192,739	81,618	274,357	56,067	83%
Canada / CIDA	ACTIVITY01 - Capacity Building	444,455	382,536	61,919	444,455	0	100%
	ACTIVITY02 - Legal Support	49,729	49,729	0	49,729	0	100%
	ACTIVITY03 - Joint Civil & Voter Regis Exer.	0	47,884	-47,884	0	0	0%
	ACTIVITY04 - Project Mgt & Technical Support	205,286	55,656	114,835	170,491	34,795	83%
	UNDP GMS 7%	52,648	41,553	9,700	51,253	1,395	97%
Total Canada		752,118	577,358	138,570	715,928	36,190	95%

UK	ACTIVITY01 - Capacity Building	0	249,596	-249,596	0	0	0%
	ACTIVITY03 - Joint Civil & Voter Regis Exer.	1,630,000	22,461	1,267,369	1,289,830	340,170	79%
	ACTIVITY04 - Project Mgt & Technical Support	226,287	371,964	-299,482	72,482	153,805	32%
	UNDP GMS 7%	139,721	52,420	54,065	106,485	33,236	76%
Total UK		1,996,008	696,441	772,356	1,468,797	527,211	74%
UNDEF	ACTIVITY03 - Joint Civil & Voter Regis Exer.	78,253	37,921	39,666	77,587	666	99%
	UNDP GMS 5%	4,119	2,508	2,088	4,596	-477	112%
Total UNDEF		82,372	40,429	41,754	82,183	189	100%
USAID	Activity 5 - Voter Registration	17,392,655	0	12,799,406	12,799,406	4,593,249	74%
	UNDP GMS 7%	1,309,125	0	963,396	963,396	345,728	74%
Total USAID		18,701,780	0	13,762,802	13,762,802	4,938,978	
Germany	Activity 5 - Voter Registration	9,299,977	0	5,771,944	5,771,944	3,528,033	62%
	UNDP GMS 7%	699,980	0	434,447	434,447	265,533	62%
Total Germany		9,999,957	0	6,206,391	6,206,391	3,793,566	62%
UNDP	Activity 5 - Voter Registration	237,640	0	0	0	237,640	0%
Total UNDP		237,640	0	0	0	237,640	0%
TOTAL		32,729,678	1,724,997	21,274,120	22,999,117	9,730,561	70%