



QUARTERLY PROJECT REPORT [1. Quarter, 2007]

**United Nations Development Programme
Afghanistan
Enhancing Legal and Electoral Capacity for Tomorrow (ELECT)
01-10-2006 – 01-10-2008**

Project ID: 00050324
Duration: 2 years
Component (MYFF): Goal 2 / Service line 2.1
Total Budget: 4,907,593 US\$
Unfunded: 2,467,225 US\$
Implementing Partners/Responsible parties: (optional)
Independent Election Commission of Afghanistan

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I. PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION CHALLENGES

UPDATED PROJECT RISKS AND ACTIONS

Content:

Government Procedures:

During the Afghan fiscal year of March 2006 to March 2007 the IEC had been successful, supported by UNDP and UNAMA in formalising its administrative as well as financial set up with the Government of Afghanistan. The IEC had been granted access to its budget in October 2006 and the Civil Service Commission finalized the PRR process as well as the approval of 35 super scale positions within the administrative structure of the IEC. The super scales are for key staff members, e.g. Head of the departments as well as the IT personal. With the start of the new fiscal year on the 22 March, 2007 the Ministry of Finance as well as the Civil Service commission began again to amend their procedures for budget approval as well as for the granting of super scale positions. The constant procedural changes hinder the IEC as an institution to be fully functional due to the fact the adjustment of structures and procedures takes up a large amount of time of the personal working for the secretariat and therefore blocs capacity building activities as well as election preparation activities. Additionally the changes lead to a constant insecurity of the IEC staff regarding salary payments. Even though the staff turn over stabilized in the last 5 months it still is a constant threat to the functionality of the IEC as an institution. The project implementation time line is affected by these insecurities due to a lack of time of key staff to take on leading positions in specific project activities.

To address these political/administrative challenges and risks for the IEC as an institution a working group was established comprised of the IEC, UNDP, UNAMA, the International Foundation of Electoral Systems (IFES) and The Asia Foundation (TAF). The group lines out new possible threats affecting the performance of the IEC as an institution and therefore the implementation time frame of the different project activities. Following detailed discussions all participating agencies and institutions take up different tasks to address the challenge/risk pointed out with the higher political levels, donors and embassies to find adequate solutions. This approach proofed to be successful in the reporting period and will further be applied in the coming months.

Ministerial cooperation:

The third component of the ELECT project concerns the implementation of a Civil and Voter Registration Pilot Project which should deliver the baseline data needed for the design of the National Civil and Voter Registration Project. Over the last 6 months the Ministry of Interior and the Ministry of Finance, both Ministries are supposed to cooperate with the IEC on the pilot project by providing information and decide on material, did not cooperate with the IEC which blocked necessary approval processes, as for the public outreach material and the registration sides in the different districts. The communication between the different levels within one ministry and across the ministries is not functional and therefore bears a constant risk to the time frame of the pilot project component.

Through different initiatives by the IEC and UNDP a CVR working group was established with representatives of the MoF, the Mol, the IEC, UNDP and IFES. The working group meets weekly on deputy ministerial level to discuss different issues which then will be given for decision to a joint Project Board comprised of Mol, MoF, IEC, UNDP and IFES management personal. Additionally all minutes are covered by minutes that are distributed to the different ministerial levels to inform every body and avoid that a document rests on one level for a long period of time before it is passed on, a situation that lead to confusion in the past.

UPDATED PROJECT ISSUES AND ACTIONS

Content:

During the reporting period the ELECT Project was without a Chief Electoral Advisor and a Project Management Specialist. Both positions could not be recruited until the end of the reporting period due to a lack of funding. The fact that both positions were not filled during the reporting period slowed down the implementation rate of project activities in connection with the project risks mentioned above. Therefore the project implementation time line was shifted for 3 months for all activities and will be revised and extended.

Fundraising activities which had already started in October 2006 showed success in March 2007 and the Country Office began to recruit the Chief Electoral Advisor as well as the Project Management Specialist. The Chief Electoral Advisor is expected to start working mid May 2007, the Project Management Specialist is also hoped to be in country by mid May. The Project Board needs to extend the time line of the project accordingly.

II. IMPLEMENTATION PROGRESS

Content:

Output 1:

IEC's institutional capacity further built to carry out its mandate as an independent constitutional body

1.1. Lessons Learned Exercise to assess and improve the following:

Due to the lack of financial resources and a long response period on the side of the IEC regarding comments on the concept paper the Lessons Learned Exercise had to be postponed until May 2007. It will take place from the 27-29 May 2007.

1.2.1 Development of a Transitional Knowledge-Based Retention Policy programme

Currently the IEC as well as UNDP are working on a retention policy paper which includes training courses as well as other incentives for the IEC staff. Due to the risk described above the IEC had no considerable time until now to finalise the policy paper and start the necessary discussions with other government agencies as well as the commissioners regarding the implementation of the policy.

1.2.2 Extensive assessment of the organizational structure.

The commissioners had several discussions on the purpose of the expert to be hired. It is widely recognized within the IEC that their management structures and work processes have to be improved. Currently the new Chairperson Dr. Lodin develops a new internal management level system which needs to be finalised before the management expert can be recruited to assist the IEC in improving their processes.

1.2.5 Developing a policy on gender aimed at enhancing women's participation in the election process

Not started yet due to the loss of the commission who had the lead in this process. She left the commission in November. More over the commission tries to address more pressing issues at the

moment so that the activity had to be postponed to a later stage.

1.3.1. Conduct an assessment and identify economical printing facilities in-country.

In January 2007 the Ministry of Finance decided that it will take on the responsibility to establish a in country printing press which shell be able to print all valuable documents. Currently Donors as well as the various line Ministries, the Ministry of Interior as well as the Ministry of Finance discuss the different possibilities so that the activity was put on hold for the time being until a decision was taken by the Government of Afghanistan.

1.3.2 Develop a recommendation and plan for the Afghan Government to establish a central and secure printing facility

Even without the sorrow assessment which was envisaged under 1.3.1, UNDP as well as the Ministries and partner organisations like IFES and IOM support the Government through constant advise of technical experts with respect to the technical specifications of this printing press as well as potential logistical problems regarding a few items to be printed, e.g high quality paper supply.

1.3.3 Conduct an assessment and identify the most optimal types of ballot boxes for usage in the future

The size of the ballot box is connect to the size of the ballot which depends on prerequisites of the election law which is supposed to be approved by the parliament in mid 2007 so this activity will be on hold until this date.

1.3.4 Identify the sources for procurement of ballot boxes.

See 1.3.3

1.3.5 Develop a coherent operational plan for the upcoming elections

This activity also depends on the approval of the election law since the structure of constituencies influence the operational plan.

1.3.6 Develop a data base for election personal needed in upcoming elections

The training department of the IEC started on this activity already in January 2007 by collecting names and CVs of potential civic educators for the upcoming election related activities. All further action will have to be discussed with the Ministry of Interior since they will provide parts of the required personal for election related activities. Currently the capacity of the Ministry is not high enough to cope with the Civil and Voter registration task, the pilot project starts in may 2007 and the identification of personal to be listed for election related activities.

1.3.7 Support the IEC in assessing the physical conditions and possibilities in the provinces

The assessment of the IEC physical conditions began in the last week of March with a road mission to Jalalabat to assess office space and rearrange the storage space for electoral material.

1.3.8 Support the IEC in assessing the communication and IT possibilities and needs in the Provinces

See 1.3.7

1.3.9 Support the IEC in establishing a basic office infrastructure to enable the headquarter to communicate with the provinces.

See 1.3.7

Output 2:**Effective legal and institutional environment in place to enable the IEC to execute its responsibilities**

No activities planned for the first Quarter of 2007

Output 3:**Joint voter and civil registration pilot project designed and implemented leading to the design of a national project to establish a permanent civil and voter registry with a single national identity document**

The CVR Pilot project is implemented in close cooperation with IFES, the Ministry of Interior and the IEC. Due to a lack of funding and extensive coordination problems on ministerial level, see above under project risks. The project implementation plan experienced a delay of 3 months. However the delay does not effect the implementation of the activities following the pilot project at this point in time.

3.1.1 Identification and recruitment of International experts to assist and monitor the implementation of the pilot project.

The personal is split between IFES and UNDP. IFES provides the IT Advisor as well CVR technical Advisor. UNDP provides the Logistics Advisor as well as the Chief Electoral Advisor who oversees the implementation of the process. The recruitment of the Chief Electoral Advisor was delayed to a difficult recruitment process. She will start her work in mid May 2007.

3.1.2 Extensive assessments of logistical necessities

The logistical assessment as well as all preparatory activities were finalised by the end of the reporting period. This includes the contracting of the technical company to implement the CVR pilot project from a technical point of view, the recruitment of all necessary personal, the preparation of all registration kids as well as the preparation of registration sides and routs in the three pilot districts.

3.1.3 Intensive training to field formations of IEC on procedures;

In accordance with the new implementation time frame the training of the field registration staff on procedures will take place in the first week of June, one week before the start of the registration work.

3.1.4 Public Outreach Campaign

All materials were prepared by December 2006. A nation wide information leaflet about the pilot project is currently distributed to the Provinces. All pilot area specific information material will be handed over to the civic educators who will start their work on the 18 May 2007 after a 3 day training. Additionally radio spots will start in mid May until the end of the pilot project.

3.1.5 Joint Civil and Voter Registration Pilot project team established

The Ministry of Interior, the Ministry of Finance, the IEC, IFES and UNDP will sign a MoU after a 6 months preparation period establishing a Pilot project oversight and working group to be able to take fast decisions on higher level and minimize the project risk. After an initial meeting on the 8 April 2007 the MoU is due to be signed in April 2007.

3.1.6 Launch the pilot project in three selected districts

The kick off meeting will be on the 22 April 2007. It is expected that the registration work in the pilot project areas will commence on the 15 June 2007 in accordance with the new project implementation time table.

3.1.7 Lessons Learned Exercise

To be held in August according to the new project implementation time table.

III. FINANCIAL STATUS AND UTILISATION

Content:

FINANCIAL STATUS

Table 1: Contribution Overview [01.10.2006 – 01.10.2008]¹

Resources

DONOR NAME	CONTRIBUTIONS		CONTRIBUTIO N BALANCE
	Committed	Received	
UNDP	530,000	530,000	-
Italy	711,801	711,801	-
Canada/CIDA	862,068		862,068
UNDEF	336,567	336,567	-
TOTAL	2,440,436	1,578,368	862,068

**The *Earmarked* column should specify if any donors have earmarked their funding to a specific activity or other requirement.

The total budget of the project currently stands at US\$ 4,907,593. The project has funding committed from its donor partners totaling US\$ 2,440,436. The project is fully funded for the first phase until December 2007.

Contributions:

In 2007 the following financial contributions/commitments were received

- UNDP Core funds US \$ 530,000
- United Nations Democracy Fund US \$ 336,567
- Government of Italy US \$ 711,801
- Government of Canada US \$ 862,068
- TOTAL: US \$ 2,440,436

All figures include the 7% GMS.

¹ The "resource overview" can be any kind of chart (a pie chart, for example, would be an effective way of demonstrating a funding gap).

FINANCIAL UTILIZATION.

Table 2: Quarterly Expenditure by Activity [1 January – 31 March]

Activity	BUDGET [2007]	QUARTERLY EXPENDITURE	BALANCE	DELIVERY (%)
Activity 1 Capacity building	277,281	0	277,281	0
Activity 2 Legal Support	309,670	0	309,670	0
Activity 3 CVR Pilot Project	640,739	0	640,739	0
Activity 4 Project Running costs	1,261,141	10,494 Core fund expenditure no GMS	1,250,647	0,7
UNDP GMS (based on donor agreements 7%)	130,885	0	130,885	0
Total	2,619,716	0	2,609,222	0,4

The GMS excludes the UNDP Core fund contribution already.

Table 3: Quarterly Expenditure by Donor [01.01.2007 – 31.03.2007]

DONORS	ACTIVITY (as per approved budget)	2007 Budget	Q1 EXPENDITURES 01/01/07- 31/03/07	BALANCE as of 31/03/07	DELIVERY RATE %
UNDP	Activity 1: Capacity Building	88,000			
	Activity 2: LegalSupport	-			
	Activity 3: CVR Pilot	220,000			
	Activity 4: Project running Costs	222,000	10,494	10,494	
GMS 7% (see agreement)		-			
Subtotal DONOR I		530,000			2%
UNDEF	Activity 1: Capacity Building	-			
	Activity 2: LegalSupport	-			
	Activity 3: CVR Pilot	319,739			
	Activity 4: Project running Costs	-			
GMS 7% (see agreement)		16,828			
Subtotal DONOR II		336,567			0%
Italy not budgeted yet			0		
			0		
			0		
GMS 5% (see agreement)		-	-		
Subtotal DONOR III		-	-	0	0%

All figures are from ATLAS.

ANNEXES

- (1) Annual Work Plan (or RRF)**