- a short term focus (2019 national general election) and seeks to maintain its support until June 2020 to continue building an enabling environment for women leaders.
- At present, on-going support to women candidates includes capacity building through nomination, election. This includes candidate schools and the setting of resource centers to be used as knowledge management centers by women leaders for national and provincial elections.
- Post-election lessons learned exercise to be conducted as a tool to design longer term support. SECSIP in partnership with national and international actors development recommendations for longer term promotion of women's political participation.
- Continue with the identification of local powerbrokers, setting up women candidate support committees and establishing linkages with local partner CSOs, church/faith groups and community leaders to raise awareness of gender equality and women's empowerment.
- "Outstanding Women of Solomon Islands action". The aim of this project is to identify the most outstanding women at community level across the country to empower and encourage reflection on women's leadership and skills. Members of the community, village, town or church groups will be asked to vote for whom they think is the most outstanding woman in their community and explain why in a few words. Starting at community level and gradually building up, the objective is to draw out most outstanding women as they are identified through a voting process by both the men and women in their communities. The immediate impact will be to boost the confidence of the women in question. This will also grow appreciation for women and their role in the community. This project was successfully piloted in 4 villages in South Malaita.



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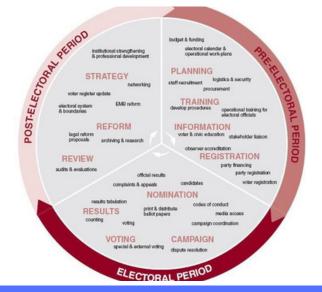
SECSIP

Strengthening the Electoral Cycle in the Solomon Islands Project is a UNDP project which provides electoral technical assistance to support the sustainability and credibility of electoral processes in the Solomon Islands. SECSIP assists the electoral authorities in the timely and effective implementation of its mandate contributing to provide an enabling environment for democratic development.









Supporting the capacity of the electoral national authority to manage an electoral cycle

- Ongoing operational advice providing key technical assistance for candidate nomination, polling, counting, announcement of results. Lessons learned exercises to assess and identify strengths and weaknesses which will inform future strategies for strengthening the capacities of the SI national electoral authorities.
- Support the expansion and strengthening of the Electoral Office (EO) to enable the implementation of its legal mandate. The 2018 Electoral Act (EA) foresees that the EO will be responsible for voter registration and conduct of elections for Provincial Assemblies. The EA provides for the pre-registration of electors of 17 years of age and enables the EO to implement continuous voter registration. To this effect, the EO plans to establish a permanent field presence to carry out its expanded mandate. Support in terms of technical operational advice will include the development of a capacity building plan, the drafting of administrative procedures (field coordination, procurement,...) which will be instrumental to ensure coherence and cohesion of the EO to conduct its mandate. Support the establishment and integration of a permanent field presence.

- Identification and support to capacity building opportunities particularly in terms of electoral operations, finance/budgeting and general leadership -USP/PIANZEA Election Management Course (a costeffective possibility would be to have it facilitated in Honiara) and other formative actions and south to south collaboration.
- Possible extension of some graduate positions until June 2020 to progressively phase out the programme in parallel with expansion of the EO human resources structure.

Enhancing the capacities of National authorities and local networks to train and educate on voter awareness

- Continuation of face-to-face awareness activities in nine provinces for 2019 national general election.
- Ongoing support to other communication channels such as the upgraded website, face-book and social media to reach out the electorate particularly youth.
- Leverage the success of SECSIP grant scheme with civil society, continue and expand array of civil society partners prioritizing people with disabilities (PWD) and youth.
- Building on previous SECSIP actions to enhance youth voter awareness, design and implementation of a campaign targeting young citizens that will turn 18 in 2023.
- Intensify current collaboration with key media partners (MASI and SIBC) contributing to a stronger media sector as an essential player for the consolidation of democracy.



"We miss this kind of educational programs. I see people are appreciating the very important role this series has in educating the public about government, democracy and how to vote wisely."

Jimmy Masa, a listener of radio drama show on voter awareness sponsored by SECSIP aired on SIBC; East Kwaio, Honiara

Support to electoral legal and administrative reform

- Further support to the drafting of the legislation as required (e.g. to enhance the internal regulatory framework).
- Continue to support the development of the political parties legal framework and to provide assistance and capacity building for the implementation of PPC's mandate.
- Provide expert advice on options to introduce Temporary Special Measures (TSM) to enhance the representation of women in elected bodies including Provincial Assemblies and in senior levels of political and governmental institutions.



Image: Pacific regional dialogue on political parties attended by SI delegates including Speaker of the parliament and CEO

Promotion of women's leadership and political participation

 Results from the various efforts made in the Pacific region to promote women's political participation have been mitigated by the limited duration and discontinuity. SECSIP action plan to support women political leadership has