

# SECSIP COMPLETION REPORT

## A. Summary and 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 among the population. The political party system in the Solomon Islands is growing slowly and parties have limited influence over its members, including those who are Members of Parliament (MPs). MPs are elected in single member constituencies through a First-Past-the-Post (FPTP) electoral system. This system has resulted in a high number of 'wasted' votes and very few seats are won with an absolute majority. Women also continue to face discrimination in both the formal and informal sectors and lack economic empowerment which continues to impact on their political representation. With a geographically dispersed and ethnically diverse population, reaching out to enfranchise all eligible citizens has proven to be a challenge in past elections. Civil society in the Solomon Islands is weak and not well coordinated, and in some areas, there are no active civil society groups beside the Church.

The Solomon Islands has gone through some critical tests of sustainability, 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 assisted SIG to deliver successful elections and the national elections in 2014 provide an opportunity to solidify gains.

The Solomon Islands Constitution and the National Parliament Electoral Provisions Act provide legislative framework for the parliamentary elections, which is generally in line with the international standards. In 2014 Solomon Islands passed the Political Party Integrity Act with a view to stabilise politics and support a more programmatic approach to government. The enactment of the new Electoral Act (EA) which entered into force on 25 September 2018 sets the Solomon Islands Electoral Commission on a path of becoming an independent institution.

Most of the electoral-related problems in Solomon Islands are caused by the difficulties faced by the electoral administration to efficiently implement the electoral legislation, especially regarding voter registration and, to a lesser extent, campaign expenditure monitoring. The Electoral Office carries out the bulk of the operational planning and implementation of legislative elections and voter registration. The Electoral Office has a low number of staff (7). Plans to expand the number of core staff at the Electoral Office HQ and to establish a permanent field presence in a form of "Service Centers" with a potential for a further development of those into the full-scale field offices have been initiated. While a budget for initial establishment of those offices has been prepared, it remains unclear whether funds will actually be made available. Accordingly, the Electoral Office maybe require support for the establishment of field offices as well as their integration into the existing structure.

On 24 November 2011 the Speaker of the Parliament and Chairman of the SIEC, requested the United Nations (UN) to commence a dialogue with the Electoral Commission with a view to developing a partnership and providing advice and support in implementing the 2012-2015 electoral operational plan. In response, a UN Needs Assessment Mission (NAM) was deployed to the Solomon Islands and based on this assessment the Focal Point for Electoral Assistance in the UN, the Under Secretary-General for Political Affairs, approved the provision of electoral assistance to the Solomon Islands between 2012 and 2015. A second UN NAM took place in September 2015 and resulted in the recommendation of a Second Phase of technical assistance beyond the initial agreed period. The parameters of assistance envisaged that the assistance should be in place for the period to cover the 2019 elections and post-election activities.

The Strengthening the Electoral Cycle Project in the Solomon Islands (SECSIP) was originally designed to strengthen the electoral cycle in the Solomon Islands from 2012 to 2015. This included support for the development of a new voter registry and for the 2014 national elections. The main partner was the Solomon Islands Electoral Commission (SIEC) and its secretariat, the Office of the Solomon Islands Electoral Commission (OSIEC). The project was amended in 2015 and extended to June 2017. A further extension (from July 2017 to Dec 2019 ) has been done to cover the National General Election 2019. It was funded by the Australian Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT), the European Union (EU) and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP).

The overarching goal of the project is to enhance the electoral inclusiveness of the Solomon Islands. Its main focus is on building the capacity of the SIEC/OSIEC to fulfill its mandate and support the development of a sustainable and more accurate voter registry. It also intends to strengthen national authority and civil society organization (CSO) capacity for voter education and electoral reform. Gender mainstreaming was added as an additional output in 2015. The project is managed by a Chief Technical Adviser (CTA) under the guidance of a Project Board. The project intends to achieve five outputs which are: 1) Sustainable voter registration system is in place to strengthen the inclusiveness and integrity of the electoral cycle. 2) Capacity of the SIEC increased and more efficient and effective administrative procedures designed and implemented for the SIEC to fulfil its mandate. 3) National authorities and civil society organizations have better capacity to conduct voter awareness and civic education. 4) Electoral and legal reform supported to contribute to a stronger Electoral Commission and increased citizen representation in the medium and long run. 5) Increased participation of women in politics and decision making, and improved representation of women in Parliament.

## **B. Activities conducted in the reporting period**

The Action carried out following activities from July 2013 to December 2019.

### **1.1 Complete the preparations for the implementation of a new VR system**

Sub-activities: 1) finalize a comprehensive VR plan; 2) recruitment of electoral/ VR officials; 3) implement a training plan for VR officials; 4) implement a VR communication strategy

## **1.2. Implementation of the VR system and creation of a new registrar of voters**

Sub-activities: 1) implement VR; 2) input and cleaning of data in the VR database; 3) implement corrections to the VR; 4) comprehensive review of the new Electoral Roll data; 5) monitoring of the VR exercise

## **1.3 Enhance the sustainability and inclusiveness of the VR system**

Sub-activities: 1) Evaluate the VR process to explore how a civil registry could be created and maintained based on the VR experience; 2) developed a strategy to include unregistered voters (recently turned 18); 3) update of the voter registrar as necessary; 4) develop a strategy to make the voter registry continuously updated

## **1.4 Enhance IT related skills and voter registration technology**

## **1.5 Support south to south cooperation with other Electoral Management Bodies**

## **2.1 Enhance capacity of the SIEC and Electoral Office to manage an electoral cycle**

Sub-activities: 1) assess capacity gaps of the SIEC and SIEC Office vis-à-vis its corporate plan; 2) compile and implement a capacity development plan; 3) implement staff appraisal methodology; 4) organize teambuilding exercises; 5) develop and implement an holistic training program for electoral officials; 6) review election complaints procedures; 7) assist the recruitment of electoral officials (ROs, polling officials, electoral managers); 8) revise of the capacity development plan for the next four years; 9) ensure proper archiving; 10) based on 2016 Capacity Assessment, develop and implement 3 year capacity development operational plan; 11) Build national capacity of Electoral Office including trainings (administrative, logistics, financial) and facilitating engagement with relevant government agencies; 12) support a series of leadership trainings for Electoral Office staff giving particular consideration to the prioritization of women's participation.

## **2.2 Improve infrastructure for more efficient electoral management**

Sub-activities: 1) purchase of GPS units and map polling stations/centers and constituency boundaries; 2) upgrade office facilities; 3) create storage facilities; 4) support the expansion of Electoral Office space and establishment of permanent presence at the provincial level; 5) support full assessment of all of the Electoral Office's ongoing and future physical infrastructure requirements; 6) develop options paper for a more cost-effective, secure and conducive working environment for the Electoral Office needs, including plans and costs for new infrastructure that includes IT and storage requirements;

## **2.3 Strengthen SIEC's operational planning, communication and coordination capacity**

Sub-activities: 1) assist SIEC in chairing a monthly donor coordination board on electoral support; 2) create a SIEC website; 3) create an election results management system; 4) update the operating procedures for the SIEC and SIEC Office; 5) develop and implement a communication and coordination strategy, including reporting guidelines; 6) create a taskforce to coordinate the implementation of 2014 election; 7) develop efficient and effective coordination and reporting structure between the Electoral Office HQ and

Provinces; 8) assist to result analysis of the national general election, data management and asset registering; 9) support the electoral office to conduct post-election lesson learned to document lessons learned and future challenges.

### **3.1 Enhance the strategic ability of the SIEC to conduct civic and voter education**

Sub-activities: 1) assist the implementation of voter education for VR; 2) assist SIEC in developing and a holistic civic and voter education strategy; 3) support the Ministry of Education to introduce democracy information into the school curriculum; 4) evaluate the effectiveness of the voter and civic education strategy; 5) develop framework for education and dissemination on the proposed political and electoral reforms, including round-tables and workshops at the provincial level. Partnerships with civil society organizations, such as Transparency Solomon Islands and the Media Association of Solomon Islands are encouraged as a mean for the design and implementation of periodical fora on issues that may benefit from the linkage between elections and broader democratic governance aspects. This will include specific support to voter education related to the 2019 election, including information on any new changes to the legal and procedural framework; 6) assist and enhance SIEC capacities to maintain SIEC Website; 7) develop the internal (SIEC, Electoral Office, Returning Officers, other election officials in the field) and external (media, political parties, observers) communication and coordination strategy, including reporting guidelines.

### **3.2 Enhance capacity of the CSOs to provide voter education and coordinate with the SIEC and increase implementation of civic and voter education activities**

Sub-activities: 1) assist CSOs in observing the VR exercise; 2) identify CSOs for voter education and implement a holistic civic and voter education strategy through local networks; 3) monitor and evaluate the implementation of the SECSIP Small Grants Program developed in Phase I with a view to expand the grants program in 2017; 4) leverage the success of training offered to civil society organisations<sup>1</sup> in Phase I to conduct broader, provincial level training of civic and voter education facilitators; 5) support the SIEC Communications and Awareness Team to expand its school elections project; 6) provision of direct procurement and logistics support associated with the 2019 General Elections

### **4.1 Strengthen legal capacity of the SIEC and improve electoral legislation submitted for approval**

Sub-activities: 1) review electoral legislation and identify the areas for improvement; 2) assist the SIEC in drafting proposed legislative changes; 3) upon national stakeholders' request provide expert advice on various options for electoral and legal reform (e.g. the political party integrity Act), facilitating round tables; 4) develop structure and capacity in SIEC to draft and assess electoral, administrative and legal reform; 5) review the results verification and announcement procedures, and draft amendments or new procedures to enhance SIEC oversight and verification ability; 6) Further support to the drafting of the

---

<sup>1</sup> In 2016, SIEC, with the support of UNDP SECSIP, established partnerships with National Council of Women, Guadalcanal Council of Women, Village Technology Trust, Vois Blo Mere, Hearts of Hope, Destiny Global, Solomon Islands Association of Community Learning Centers and Tefila to enhance civic education and voter awareness efforts.

legislation as required (e.g. to enhance the internal regulatory framework of the EMB); 7) Develop structure and capacity in Electoral Office to effectively contribute to the electoral, legal and administrative reform; 8) Provide expert advice on options to introduce Temporary Special Measures to enhance the representation of women in elected bodies including Parliament, provincial assemblies as well as in political and governmental institutions at all levels.

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

Sub-activities: 1) assist SIEC to advocate on increasing women's political participation; 2) support awareness on the introduction of TSM; 3) debate on women participation in election processes; 4) support research at provincial level; 5) Reflection and lessons learned exercises with women candidates to document lessons, challenges, and way forward to continue advocating towards the increase of women's political participation.

### **5.2 Support legislation review and drafting in relation to women's leadership and participation in political life**

Sub-activities: 1) provide expert advice on options to introduce TSM; 2) revisiting necessary legal reform to improve women's leadership and participation in political life.

## **C. Difficulties encountered and measures taken to overcome problems**

<b>Difficulties/challenges faced</b>	<b>Measures taken</b>
Due to scatter location of islands and remoteness and limited transportation; difficulties were faced in terms of logistics, communication and dissemination of voter information and electoral materials	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Logistics operational plan in advance</li> <li>- Engagement of CSOs with local presence to disseminate voter awareness materials</li> <li>- Partnered with SolRice, a private enterprise for rice distribution throughout the country, to disseminate voter registration leaflets and voter education booklets</li> </ul>
Patriarchic societal system and religious faith alongside with limited scope for capacity building of women hinder the promotion of women leadership and political participation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Project engaged faith based groups for awareness campaign beside media and local CSOs</li> <li>- Undertake innovative action like 'Outstanding Women' in Solomon Islands initiative</li> <li>- Mentoring and capacity building of aspirant women candidates and leaders</li> </ul>
Limited human resource capacities among electoral actors (Electoral Office, PPC) sometimes slowed down the implementation of activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- SECSIP engaged an Electoral Operations Adviser who worked closely with electoral office Head of Operations in the planning and implementation of election events (June 2018-May 2019). He provided operational support in the lead up to the NGE and post-election operational lessons learned exercises.</li> <li>- Engagement of a national Human Resources Adviser by SECSIP who assisted the EO in the recruitment of temporary</li> </ul>

	<p>staff in the lead up to the election and in the planning of the proposal for the review of the EO staffing structure.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Graduate Programme. A total 10 graduates engaged with (7) electoral office and (3) PPC in different capacities to address capacity constraints (from June 2018 onwards). The number of graduates after the NGE has been progressively reduced.</li> <li>- SECSIP engagement of expertise to support BVR in accordance with endorsed plan by CEO. Due to engagement by Electoral Office of foreign commercial vendor to provide services (including those initially expected to be provided by SECSIP experts), SECSIP suspended provision of project technical expertise.</li> <li>- Engagement of a Data Management Expert (short-term consultancy) at the request of CEO. The DME developed tools and forms for the setting of batches of ballots for the counting and consolidation of results. This contributed to mitigate the limited capacities of the</li> </ul>

## D. Changes introduced in the implementation

The Strengthening the Electoral Cycle Project in the Solomon Islands was primarily intended to strengthen the institutional capacity of the OIEC to manage the electoral cycle and improve the accuracy of the voter registry<sup>2</sup>. It was based on the findings of an electoral needs assessment mission (NAM) done by the UN Electoral Assistance Department (EAD) and UNDP in 2012 and the work done previously by the RAMSI electoral assistance component. The project document was amended in 2015 following another NAM. This recommended continued support to the electoral processes into 2019. The no-cost amendment extended the life of the project to 2017, streamlined the output wording and added a fifth output for gender mainstreaming.

SECSIP adopted a strategic and programmatic focus for delivery by synergizing project activities and building on activities to increase performance and contributions towards the higher level outcomes. With the transition after RAMSI exit, consolidation of peace dividends after the ethnic tensions contributed in enhancing inclusiveness and credibility of national general election outcomes. For example, in activities engaging youth, SECSIP had collaborated with UNDP Peacebuilding project with a strong focus on youth and innovation, to identify stakeholders and capitalize on existing activities. SECSIP continued to enhance its cooperation with other UNDP Regional Projects supporting the consolidation of a multi-party system.

The project management unit capacity had been considerably strengthened in late 2017 following the evaluation findings and mid-term review of the project. In addition to the Chief Technical Adviser (CTA) and project assistant, a dedicated international P3 project coordinator position was created to allow CTA

<sup>2</sup> UNDP, SECSIP Project Document, p 1

to focus on technical advice. An M&E officer (IUNV) position had also been created to improve monitoring and reporting of the project. Also a graduate programme was introduced to strengthen the operational capacities of the Electoral Office and PPC.

Till August 2018 SECSIP provided supports to EO through its five outputs (results). Then due to engagement of an international vendor by the Electoral Office to provide BVR related services which included those initially expected to be provided by SECSIP experts, SECSIP suspended the provision of project technical expertise for its output 1: sustainable voter registration system created to strengthen the inclusiveness and integrity of the electoral cycle.

## **E. Achievement and results in accordance with the performance indicator**

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

The Solomon Island's Government (SIG) adopted a new biometric voter registration (BVR) system and SECSIP supported the OSIEC to implement the new system with registration done in time for the 2014 elections. The BVR was widely seen as one of the most important contributions of the project. However, in August 2018 due to the engagement by the Electoral Office of an international vendor to provide services which included those initially expected to be provided by SECSIP experts, SECSIP suspended the provision of project technical expertise.

Before its suspension, SECSIP made significant contribution towards a more reliable voter registration system. 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. The Project procurement actions included equipment utilized during the voter registration as well as the construction of database and results management centre utilized during the last national general elections.

#### **Activity 1.1: Complete the preparations for the implementation of a new Voter Registration (VR) system.**

##### **Indicator 1.1.1: Number of male and female polling officials trained to implement voter registration exercise.**

##### **Results and activities summary:**

2018-2019: Nationwide voter registration update held successfully from 3 September 2018 to 11 January 2019. There were 952 voter registration centres across the country. For the Biometric Voter Registration (BVR) update across the country the Solomon Islands Electoral Office (SIEO) was engaged in a significant process of detailed planning; the updating of manuals; the recruitment of some 2,000 staff and training of those to implement voter registration exercise.

**2013-2014:** BVR was first completed in 2013 and 2014 ahead of National General Election (NGE) 2014. As reported in the first phase project final evaluation commissioned by UNDP, the 2014 national election was a success, especially with regard to the voting list, which was 85% accurate. By using the new technology, SIEC made more accurate voter lists since approximately 160,000 names were removed (double entries). For BVR exercise, according to 2014 Annual Report, 350 biometric kits were procured to register approximately 340,000 eligible voters across the country in ten provinces. 951 Voter Registration Centers were established and 278 registration teams were recruited and trained to conduct voter registration exercise.

## **Activity 1.2: Implementation of the VR system and creation of a new registrar of voters**

### **Indicator 1.2.1: % of people on new voter roll compared to estimated population.**

#### **Results and activities summary:**

**2019 NGE:** The number of registered voters for 2019 NGE is 359,523. The total registered voters in 2014 was 287,562. As a result of the 2018-2019 voter registration exercise, the number of entries in the electoral roll increased to 359,523 in 2018 with the addition of 71,961 eligible voters. Around 86% people are on new voter roll compared to estimated population.



BVR update launching in August 2018

**2014 NGE:** The total registered voters in 2014 was 287,562. With the completion of voter registration process, approximately 85% of estimated voters took part in the new voter registration process.

The below table shows the comparison of registered voters in 2014 and 2019<sup>3</sup>. The table shows that by sex, male registered voters increased from 148,504 to 185,006 and female registered voters increased from 139,058 to 174,517. The composition of male and female registered voters slightly changed from 2014 to 2019. The male registered voters composition decreased from 51.64% to 51.46% whereas the female registered voters composition increased from 48.36% to 48.54% in 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

<sup>3</sup> 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



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
	<b>Total</b>	<b>148,504</b>	<b>139,058</b>	<b>287,562</b>	<b>185,006</b>	<b>174,517</b>	<b>359,523</b>
	<b>Total in %</b>	<b>51.64%</b>	<b>48.36%</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>51.46%</b>	<b>48.54%</b>	<b>100%</b>

### **Activity 1.3: Enhance the sustainability and inclusiveness of the registration system**

**Indicator 1.3.1: Frequency that voter roll can be up-dated in an electoral cycle.**

**Indicator 1.3.2: Number of male and female polling officials trained to implement electoral processes.**

#### **Results and activities summary:**

According to the new Electoral Act (EA) 2018, the Electoral Office (EO) needs to update the voter roll continuously to ensure the registration of new voters. After 2014 voter registration exercise, the update of the electoral roll for the provinces of Choiseul and Western Province was held on 26 October 2017. SIEC commenced the delivery of registration kits in October 2017, with twelve (12) kits reaching the Western Province to carry out registration of voters in nine (9) constituencies, and four (4) kits deployed to Choiseul for the registration exercise in three (3) constituencies. SECSIP supported the provincial update by recruiting three consultants with expertise in electoral biometric voter registration system. In December 2017, two of the BVR consultants engaged by SECSIP were deployed to Choiseul and Western Province (for two weeks) to provide helpdesk services and address software and hardware issues.

Further update of voter roll was done from 3 September 2018 to 11 January 2019 nationwide. Currently, the numbers of staff are working permanently for the EO is very low to run the regular voter registration. SECSIP had provided one International Electoral Operations Adviser and 7 Graduates who played a significant role during voter registration. However, a revised organogram and staffing structure was shared and discussion going on with the Ministry of Public Service to improve the human resource capacity of EO.

In 2018 and 2019, the number of election officials trained to implement electoral process was:

Election Manager: Total 10 (no female)

Revising Officer: Total 50 (8 female)

Assistant Revising Officer: Total 238 (49 female)

Polling Officer: Estimated 3600

In 2013 and 2014, the number of election officials trained to implement electoral process was:

Election Manager: Total 20 (no female)

Revising Officer: Total 50 (4 female).

Returning Officer: Total 50 (4 female)  
Assistant Returning Officer: 80  
Presiding Officer and Polling Assistant: 2800

As reported in 2016 Annual Report, expertise for the transfer of know-how necessary for the updating of the Biometric Voter Registration (BVR) database had been identified and contract was issued during the last quarter of 2016. Senior Voter Registration Adviser Ronan McDermott was engaged in 2016 to conduct further analysis with a view to support the sustainability of the Biometric Voter Registration (BVR) database.

SECSIP also engaged an expert on BVR Systems Chahine Hamila in 2017 to conduct an assessment of the BVR system including its priority needs, and to develop an Options Paper proposing recommendations to enable SIEC to gain autonomy for the efficient management of the BVR database and to strengthen the sustainability of the BVR.

The week of October 16, 2017, the BVR server had a failure and could not be switched on. This was not the first crash of the server, which was previously sent to Fiji to be repaired. On the 23<sup>rd</sup> of October 2017, a meeting on progress made by the BVR expert to secure BVR data was conducted at the office of the PS MOHA. During this meeting, three urgent actions to advance BVR sustainability were raised, including the ongoing replacement and upgrading of BVR equipment, with redundant backup and disaster recovery capabilities; BVR software upgrading to reduce potential costs and risks; and a program to train a first pool of national graduates on elections and technology through a formal mid-term curriculum, contributing to the delivery of output 2.

In December 2017, two of the BVR consultants engaged by SECSIP. These consultants provided technical advice and help desk assistance at field level and worked on daily maintenance of BVR equipment, including update and integration of data into the system as per request, and solutions to technical issues experienced by the EO IT department. They designed an electronic checklist form in order to conduct the verification process of the existing registration kits. Upon arrival of new BVR equipment in March 2018, BVR consultants conducted the technical inspection of the equipment including configuration and networking of the server and configuration of network switches and UPS.

#### **Activity 1.4 Enhance IT related skills and voter registration technology**

##### **Results and activities summary:**

The involvement of three SECSIP BVR consultants in December 2017 and early 2018 was instrumental to enable a more dependable functioning of the BVR system and contributed to the identification and recommendations for IT risk mitigation measures. At the request of Office of Solomon Islands Electoral Commission, SECSIP engaged Dries De Vleeschauwer in the first half of 2017 from the Electoral Service International Incorporated (ESI) to contribute to the transfer of technical know-how for the use of the existing BVR system. Upon departure of former SIEC ICT Senior officer, actions were taken to immediately respond to the absence of human resources and capacities in the day-to-day maintenance of BVR equipment and software. This involved the engagement of three (3) Nepalese BVR consultants in

December 2017 to support the BVR updating process in Choiseul and Western Province and the management of the data centre.

Upon endorsement of SECSIP plan by Chief Electoral Officer (CEO) in April 2018, the project proceeded with the engagement of a Senior BVR Adviser and a Software Developer which later suspended. SECSIP also provided a national IT graduate working closely with senior experts and developed his IT skill to be contributed to the works of EO. After the NGE 2019, an International Data Management Expert was engaged by SECSIP upon the request of CEO to provide election data analysis support to the EO.

In 2015 and 2016, a senior expert on biometric voter registration (BVR) was engaged by SECSIP to conduct an analysis focused on the available options of the current BVR database. This analysis had resulted in a report presented to OSIEC providing detailed information on technological and financial options. The report also highlighted possible contractual constraints for OSIEC's use of the database. SECSIP at the request of SIEC engaged the former SIEC IT Officer on a part time basis. The deliverables of this consultant included support to the status review of hardware and software, assist with training for data entry officials, support entry of information, omissions and objections and production of final lists.

### **Activity 1.5 Support south to south cooperation with other Electoral Management Bodies (EMBs)**

#### **Results and activities summary:**

SECSIP collaborated in the organization and supported the participation of the Solomon Islands delegation in the Pacific Regional Dialogue (Fiji, September 2017) and in the Pacific Political Parties Conference (September 2018). Participation in these fora provided an opportunity to analyse the legal framework underlying the development of political parties and its impact on political stability and consolidation of democracy. It also contributed to the sharing of information and experiences and to continue building networks of critical stakeholders from the Pacific region.

According to 2016 Annual Report, OSIEC Principal Administrative Officer 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 OSIEC officials to liaise with the Nepalese colleagues and learned about the strategies and approaches put in place by the EMB in Nepal towards the sustainability of the BVR system. This had included the engagement of a senior expert to review the BVR system and also the application of new GPS mapping technologies also under the consideration of SIEC.

Also in 2016, SECSIP CTA liaised with the Samoa Electoral Office in order to organize a study tour for two 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 OSIEC Senior Management, David Ramosae (IT Senior Officer) and Madlyn Lagusu (Senior Training Officer and Gender Focal Point) participated in this study tour. These OSIEC officials had the opportunity of liaising with officials with an equivalent range of responsibilities in the Samoan EMB and the benefit of learning from their experience for the preparation of the 2016 election. Additionally, upon their return to OSIEC, SECSIP in collaboration with the Office of

the Registrar of the Political Parties (ORPP), organized a workshop on the lessons learned from the Samoa general election which was held on 18 March.

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

**Activity 2.1: Enhanced capacity of the SIEC to manage an electoral cycle**

**Indicator 2.1.1 Percentage of SIEC staff that believe they are more capable of conducting their jobs than they were a year ago.**

**Results and activities summary:**

SECSIP contributed to strengthen the operational and human resources capacities of the Electoral Office (EO) to manage the NGE efficiently. SECSIP contributed to improve the operational capacities of the EO by engaging an International Electoral Operations Adviser (OA) from early 2018. The OA worked closely with the SIEC Head of Operations providing technical advice and support in all operational aspects including planning, electoral procedures, field coordination, logistics, procurement, human resources and coordination with external actor, such as RSIPF.

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. The voter turn-out was approximately 86% of registered voters. After final verification of candidate eligibility, the total number of candidates contesting in 2019 National General Election (NGE) was 332 including 26 female candidates. Because of the limited capacities of the voter registration database and electoral management system, the Chief Electoral Officer (CEO) made a request to SECSIP to engage a short-term Data Management Expert (DME) to provide additional operational support. The DME developed tools and forms for the setting of batches of ballots for the counting and consolidation of results. A report (accessible at <https://drive.google.com/open?id=1Zy-QI8R-qIxEt5L41Bj5WdWQbiaBK6t7>) was developed under the guidance of SECSIP CTA and compiled statistical data to assist to identify trends and results analysis. SECSIP procured 1,700 polling kits which were delivered to the EO warehouse with additional 100 ink bottles and packing materials as well. Technical guidance was provided to prepare the tender document for printing of 550,000 ballot papers.

The Electoral Office also successfully conducted an early voting on 21 March 2019 enabling police and electoral officials engaged in official duties on the polling day to exercise their right to vote. The pre-poll was conducted in Honiara and provincial capitals of 8 provinces except Temotu as no police officers from this province applied for pre-poll. There was an overall turnout of 90.5% out of the total number of police and electoral officers who submitted and were deemed to be entitled to pre-poll (out of 1319 total registered prepoll applicants, 1195 cast their votes).

Over 2018 and 2019 the project re-initiated a graduate programme, identifying and engaging 7 staff [voter awareness (2), IT (1), logistics (1), human resources (1), field coordination (2)] to support key areas that required greater capacity in the SIEO. SECSIP engaged a national media consultant and Human resource assistant which also contributed in strengthening EO's capacities. These staff closely worked with EO permanent staff, shared their experience, provided coaching and mentoring to improve their capacity and quality of their works.

Ahead of 2019 NGE, SECSIP OA and officials of the Australian Electoral Office facilitated two trainings: in the first training, organized from 25 to 28 January in Honiara, OA facilitated two sessions for 70 participants: a) Polling Station (PS) assessment and allocation of Voters to the PS's; and b) communications and reporting. The second training was organised 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 the process and build the credibility of the process.



Training of Revising Officers

In 2019, three lessons learned workshops helped to identify good practices, challenges and way forward for future improvement of electoral activities after NGE 2019. It contributed to identify weaknesses in the training of polling staff and the need for the continuous capacity building efforts for electoral officials.

In 2017, as a part of capacity building support to the Electoral Office, 7 senior officials of EO as well as by 17 officers from other electoral management bodies in the Pacific region participated in a training titled 'building Resources in Democracy, Governance and Elections (BRIDGE)' in Honiara during the last week of May. The author of the new module, Anne-Sofie Gerhard was one of the facilitators together with 2 trainers from the Australian Electoral Commission and one from Samoa Electoral Office.

In 2017, another training was attended by SIEC, ESSP and SECSIP officials from 28 to 30 November 2017 covering topics included in the user manual, such as new features of the site and the available tools to add contents to manage the site (e.g. navigation of Joomla site and administrator, inserting text, images, videos and audio, and uploading documents). The training on the redeveloped SIEC website was

conducted by NOVUS LTD in November 2017. The new site incorporates sections on voting, biometric registration, elections and up-to-date relevant electoral activity.

In 2016, a capacity assessment study included the assessment of the electoral capacities was carried out by SECSIP Senior Consultant Carlos Valenzuela. The study followed a methodology using a systems analysis and a comprehensive assessment based on five principles of electoral administration. These five principles are the professionalism (efficiency and efficacy), impartiality, independence of action, transparency and sustainability of the electoral authorities in the organization of credible elections. A participatory approach seeking the views of relevant authorities and key stakeholders in thematic workshops and meetings was also employed to ensure the involvement and the rationality of the findings and recommendations. This included bilateral meetings and workshops with relevant stakeholders from the EMB, other government authorities and civil society representatives. A report establishing the baseline and identifying possible options for strengthening the electoral capacities was finalized and presented to all stakeholders in early September 2016.

A number of staff formative actions benefitted the following officials to enhance electoral capabilities and skills:

- Acting Chief Electoral Officer, Alphonsus Pero, attended the Professional Certificate in Management of Electoral Processes provided by the International Centre for Parliamentary (London, UK) during the month of May 2016.
- Principal Administrative Officer, Fredrick Bosoboe, attended the Professional Certificate in Strategic Reform of Electoral Processes Electoral provided by the International Centre for Parliamentary Studies (London, UK) in November 2016. This course, of particular relevance in view of the process of reform considered a priority by the Government, as it explores different elements of reform in order to utilize efficient administrative processes, campaign to engage stakeholders and leverage technology to initiate the reform of electoral processes.
- GEO-7 Conference, Washington (Nov 2016): the theme was on open data and transparency in electoral administration. The Agenda included sessions on transparency related issues including those in connection with voter registers and results announcement (e.g. whether political parties should receive searchable copies of voter lists). This GEO Conference was held in Washington following the US Election Programme hosted by IFES. GEO partners include the Association of European Election Officials, IFES, the International Institute for Democracy and Electoral Assistance, the Electoral Institute for Sustainable Democracy in Africa, Mexico's National Electoral Institute, the United Nations Electoral Assistance Division and the United Nations Development Programme. Solomon Islands Electoral Commissioner Ms. Taeasi Sanga and Senior Media Officer of the Office of the Solomon Islands Electoral Commission, Ms. Philothea Paul attended this event.
- South to South collaboration. OSIEC Senior IT Officer David Ramosae and Senior Training Officer and Gender Focal Point, Ms. Madlyn Lagusu participated in a study mission during the Samoa election in March. OSIEC Principal Administrative Officer Fredrick Bosoboe and Senior IT Officer David Ramosaea conducted a 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.



- A two day regional conference focused on the theme of political and parliamentary stability was held in Nadi, Fiji on 27 and 28 June 2016. The Solomon Islands delegation included members of the Government. OSIEC Principal Administrative Officer Fredrick Bosoboe also attended this conference which included topics on elections and its impact on stability and rule of law.

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 had resulted in the identification of administrative deficiencies and procedural constraints and the subsequent issuance of more than 20 key recommendations to address deficiencies and to assist in the streamlining registration and election related procedural issues.

The Midterm Review of the project felt this (capacity building support) was “another success of SECSIP” (the other was the BVR) and that it had made an important contribution in terms of “supporting capacity development, [but] in some cases supplementing OSIEC capacity.” It noted this support was most notable in the areas of procurement, training of electoral officials and manual updating.

## **Activity 2.2: Improve infrastructure for more efficient electoral management**

### **Indicator 2.2.1 % of activities in operational plan being achieved as consequence of infrastructure improvements**

#### **Results and activities summary:**

During 2018 and 2019, the supports from SECSIP CTA and International Electoral Operations Adviser (OA) were instrumental to design and implement the comprehensive operational plans for voter registration and polling day. Despite some challenges of timely completion of candidates’ nominations due to bad weather, all actions according to the operation plans were completed on time by adopting an alternative mechanism to finish the candidate nominations timely.

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 conduct the construction work for further extension of the office space. Two additional rooms and a sitting space were built adjacent to the main structure which was inspected by an engineer from the Ministry of Infrastructure and Development to certify the completion of the work.



Construction of additional rooms going on

In 2018, SECSIP support was instrumental to ensure more secure office environment by constructing a security gate and room for security guard. The whole office premise was covered by security camera and connected to a monitor installed in the result management centre. SECSIP supported SIEC to build the BVR Database and Result Management Center in February and March 2018. The new data-centre contributed to a more efficient operation of the voter registration process enhancing the maintenance and security of the equipment in the appropriate conditions as well as improving the protection and the accessibility of equipment and data. In addition, the data-centre also reduced SIEC financial and logistical burden, as previous data-centre was located in leased premises in a different neighborhood.

SECSIP had procured two containers for storage of materials for EO. This was foreseen as a temporary arrangement to storage non-sensitive materials in view of the termination of the lease agreement with the owner of SIEC warehouse. SECSIP engaged a Construction Adviser to prepare a detailed scope of works and bidding documents back in 2016 with respect to request made by OSIEC Acting Chief Electoral Officer seeking SECSIP support concerning the development of architectural plans for the renovation of the premises. 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. Also in 2015, basic upgrade and repair of OSIEC premises was carried out enhancing office and communication services.

Internet services: UNDP SECSIP made contractual arrangements with Solomon Telekom Company to increase the capacity of the ADSL broadband services. This action enhanced the IT and the communication capabilities of the Electoral Commission. The new bandwidth capacity enabled a more efficient use of network services such as email, browsing, video- conferencing, and access to other internet based services including institutional website.

Apart from the infrastructure improvement for EO staff, SECSIP project management submitted to the approval of Acting Chief Electoral Officer a proposal for the extension of its project room in 2017. 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.

### **Activity 2.3: Strengthen SIEC's operational planning, communication and coordination capacity**

#### **Indicator 2.3.1 Number of electoral stakeholders that SIEC is formally engaged with on a regular basis**

##### **Results and activities summary:**

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 to contribute to an enabling environment for credible and inclusive elections. An Electoral Risk Assessment was completed in June 2018 (the report can be accessed here: <https://drive.google.com/open?id=1fzCVfGagM16hRGtoCu99ycJr-5vCAoj2>) and identified the challenges of the general election suggesting strengthening mechanisms to anticipate and mitigate electoral related risks as well as identifying support priorities to be channeled through the project. EO signed a MOU with RSIPF (13 September 2018) to facilitate coordination of electoral related security issues in the lead up to



the 2019 national general election. The EO supported by SECSIP continues to maintain close communication and collaboration with RSIPF.

Before NGE 2019, in line with SECSIP ProDoc and the Election Assessment conducted in May-June 2018, an Inter-Ministerial Electoral Operations Committee (IMEOC) was established in early 2019 for government coordination. SECSIP partnered with OXFAM to create an enabling environment to facilitate the participation of 167 domestic observers representing accredited national civil society organisations. This also encouraged the inclusiveness in terms of composition of the observer group particularly women (74 women observers) and people with disabilities (7 people including 3 women). OXFAM collaborated with DSE (civil society umbrella organization) and SISAC (the coalition of civil society organizations in Solomon Islands) for this action.



SECSIP CTA briefing domestic observers

SECSIP also 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. Two of SECSIP Graduates were engaged and dedicated to this role.

On 19 June 2019, a one-day workshop was held in Honiara on 19 June to discuss the 2018 Electoral Act. At the request of the Chief Electoral Officer (CEO), SECSIP provided logistical and financial support for this exercise which was attended by Electoral Office staff, Elections Support System Programme (ESSP) advisers and SECSIP project staff. The workshop resulted in collated a report outlining sections/clauses need to be reviewed/discussed with new MPs.

In addition to face to face conducted by 15 CSO partners including media and private enterprise like SolRice, SECSIP support to voter awareness included engagement with media professionals, religious groups, youth groups etc.

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

In 2016, a Memorandum of Understanding had been established for the collaboration and coordination in the design, planning and implementation of voter awareness related activities between Political Parties Commission (PPC) and SIEC. According to Annau Report 2015, an initiative for the strengthening of Electoral Office's planning and coordination abilities was taken place in October 2015. The EO planned and presented a proposal to broaden the scope of PPIC consultations initiated in September 2015 to gather feedback on PPI Act. The rationale behind the proposal was to collect information and feedback

from relevant stakeholders and the public concerning the operation of the PPI Act during the National General Election, as well as to gather feedback concerning the eventual amendment of the elections bill.

In 2014, Solomon Island Electoral Commission with technical assistance from UNDP introduced a more robust Results Management System (RMS) for the General Elections 2014 to improve transparency and quality of the results tabulation process as reported in the annual report 2014. RMS was used by the Returning Officer (RO) during the consolidation and tabulation of results at the Counting Centers in each province. RMS is comprised of a custom designed results management system software, computer, printer and related hardware to be used at the counting centers.

Among other electoral stakeholders, there were religious groups, youth groups, women network, Media Association in Solomon Islands (MASI) etc. regularly participated in electoral events.

### **Result 3: National authorities and civil society organizations have better capacity to conduct voter awareness and civic education.**

**Activity 3.1: Enhance strategic ability of the SIEC and PPC to conduct civic and voter education enhanced Indicator 3.1.1 % of electoral officials trained on civic education.**

**Indicator 3.1.2 Number of local networks implementing education strategies and progress made in finalizing strategies**

#### **Results and activities summary:**

During 2018 and 2019, involvement of SECSIP graduates (7 to SIEC and 3 to PPC) enhanced their ability to conduct voter awareness and civic education. SECSIP engaged one National Media Consultant who worked with EO Media and Communication Officer to implement voter education and communication strategies of EO. This support strengthened the capacities of EO Media and Communication Team and contributed to expand outreach and have a stronger and more fluid communication with the electorate. An international consultant, expert in awareness was engaged in April 2018 to identify and design awareness actions and supporting materials.

Apart from regular media campaign, this team also implemented the voter awareness activities in market places across all provinces. PPC Graduates (3 female) also supported the implementation of voter education on Political Party Integrity Act (PPIA) in remote islands.

For the first time Civil Society Organisations (CSOs) were engaged in Provincial Assembly Elections (PAE) monitoring on 12 June 2019. SECSIP engaged two partner CSOs namely Tefila and Stages of Changes to deploy a total of 25 (15 women) national monitors to conduct a technical follow-up of the PAE in three provinces: Guadalcanal, Ngella and Malaita. The Ministry of Provincial Government and Institutional Strengthening (MPGIS), Returning Officers and SECSIP provided trainings to those monitors before their deployment to the selected provinces. The EO supported by SECSIP facilitated the process of accreditation

and deployment of 3 domestic observers for the East Makira By-Election held on 11 December 2019 simultaneously with the election for the Makira Provincial Assembly.

SECSIP organised a two-day awareness raising training for 22 PWDs (9 male) 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. A total of 18 media professionals and civil society representatives based in Malaita province participated in a media refresher workshop on electoral



Awareness training for PWDs

related topics. The participants (4 provincial journalists, 2 women with disabilities, 4 CSOs members, 3 women candidates, 2 women leaders, 3 women supporters) 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.

SECSIP engaged 15 CSOs<sup>4</sup> and religious groups during 2018 and 2019 for raising awareness on electoral issues in line with SIEC 2016-2019 Voter Awareness Strategy. In 2016, this National Voter Awareness Strategy (NVAS) was developed by the EO Communication Awareness Team. The NVAS took into consideration the analysis of the “Lessons Learned” workshops held during 2015, the extensive program of consultations with Civil Society Organizations (CSOs), as well as the feedback sessions obtained from more than 200 officials around the country involved in voter awareness programs in the lead up to the 2014 National General Election, and the above-referred Voter Awareness Survey. This Strategy was presented on 19 January 2016 to OSIEC senior management and to SECSIP Project Board 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.

---

<sup>4</sup> 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), SIALC, Stages of Change (SOC), Tawatana Community Conservation and Development Association (TCCDA), Tefila, Transparency Solomon Islands (TSI), Village Technology Trust.

During 2019, increased outreach of voter awareness information was possible by utilizing an innovative dissemination mechanism in collaboration with a private sector company (SolRice). Building on the first innovative and successful collaboration with SolRice to distribute to remote islands 110,000 leaflets providing voter registration information in 2018, SECSIP undertook the second collaboration with SolRice on pro-



Launching of second collaboration with SolRice

bono basis to distribute 110,000 booklets (can be accessed here at: [https://drive.google.com/open?id=1quFfu4osbESHifl094R6aub66e7Pbw\\_B](https://drive.google.com/open?id=1quFfu4osbESHifl094R6aub66e7Pbw_B)) providing basic voter awareness information on concepts of democracy, parliament etc. in January 2019. SECSIP provided financial and technical support to the voter awareness activities in market places of different provinces which helped to reach large gathering of people. Electoral office media and communication team with support from SECSIP graduates (2 voter awareness assistants) and national media consultant conducted these in February and March 2019. SECSIP in partnership with Telekom Television Ltd (TTV) produced a 5 minutes video (available at: <https://drive.google.com/file/d/1FtqKA8J0N9NFrBCRu7ytlwbOwCIKZV1/view?ts=5c9b5b87>) demonstrating 'how to vote' and aired from 29 March to 3 April 2019. SECSIP and EO communication team also engaged a youth group to produce 1 video on 'youth messages to choose the right candidate' and 2 animations on 'electoral offences' also broadcasted by TTV and disseminated amongst youth using share it application with their mobile telephones.

In 2018, SECSIP provided technical expertise and financial support to design and produce three TV commercials on voter registration aired during the Football World Cup. Given the popularity of the FIFA World Cup matches amongst Solomon Islanders, this was an excellent outreach opportunity. Logistical and financial support provided to EO to conduct the mock voter registration activity during Kodili festival in Buala, Isabel Province (26-28 June 2018). Other voter education tools supported and funded by SECSIP ahead of NGE 2019 included the use of telephone hotline, radio advertisements, radio talkback shows (pre-recorded and edited by SECSIP Media Consultant using project provided recording equipment) and drama, FAQs, posters, leaflets, manuals, booklet, pull up banner, etc. Comprehensive upgrade of SIEC website resulted in a significant increase of users accessing information related to voter registration, polling results etc.





conducted from 25 to 29 September 2017, with participation from eight (8) media professionals based in Auki. These trainings were the first ever to be implemented in the provinces, enabling media professionals and freelancers based in provinces to benefit from this initiative. Three additional SIEC/MASI 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. The final trainings had a successful turnover of 80, 53, and 46 participants per workshop as mentioned in the training completion report.

On the 13<sup>th</sup> of October 2017, SIEC/SECSIP team conducted mock election exercises at Guguha CHS and Jejevo CH (Isabel Province) under the on-going school elections project. Similarly, from 30 October to 1 November 2017, SECSIP travelled to East Guadalcanal in the Weather coast area to visit three (3) schools (Avuavu, Kopiu and Potau) to conduct mock election exercises. SIEC Communications Awareness team comprised of SIEC Senior Media Officer and UNDP SECSIP national media consultant on voter awareness conducted a training for trainers for 10 participants (5 women) with a view to enhance knowledge of citizens on the voting system and gain confidence in the electoral processes. This three-day (14-16 Dec 2017) training was aimed at building the capacity of Civil Society Trainers to better understand and expand their knowledge on electoral procedures.

In 2016, SECSIP successfully established partnerships with:

- Political Parties Commission (PPC). Memorandum of Understanding was established for the collaboration and coordination in the design, planning and implementation of voter awareness related activities between PPC and SIEO.
- Media Association. The Electoral Commission and the Media Association of Solomon Islands (MASI) approved a training plan and agreed on topics and proposed facilitators for the development of and implementation of voter awareness activities.
- MEHRD establishing a schools project to enhance knowledge of voter awareness topics included in the curriculum. The School Elections Project of the Solomon Islands Electoral Commission was launched in September 2016 following extensive consultations between SIEC and the Ministry of Education and Human Resource Development (MEHRD) which resulted in the formal endorsement of this programme in August 2016. SECSIP provided technical assistance in the development and production of materials as well as on the course contents for the project and also provided logistical support for the arrangement of school visits. Senior Media Officer of the Office of the Solomon Islands Electoral Commission Ms. Philotea Paul and SECSIP Voter Awareness consultant Ben McNair led the design and launching of this activity. Five schools were selected for the launching of a pilot of the schools programme, these were St Nicholas, Bishop Epalle and Florence Young School in Honiara where activities were carried out during the month of October. These were followed by visits in November to Aligegio School in Malaita Province, and Waimapuru School in Makira Province. <http://theislandsun.com/school-elections-project-begins/>
- Tefila Marketing and Enterprise Development, Destiny Global Development Agency, Solomon Islands Association of Community Learning Centres (SIALC), Hearts of Hope CSOs through micro-grant agreement to develop activities focused on the strengthening of specific areas of voter awareness to enhance eligible voters' understanding the Solomon Islands electoral system. A three day workshop

was held in Honiara on 29 and 30 November and 1 December 2016 to mentor CSOs on aspects related to activities implementation, narrative and financial reporting in compliance with UNDP standards.

On the same year, SIEC with SECSIP support, established a Voter Awareness Working Group (WG) aimed at providing a critical link between the EMB and the external organizations interested in conducting community level civic and voter education activities. The WG was envisaged as a forum for dialogue on voter awareness issues. According to 2016 Annual Report, a first consultative workshop for 35 participants representing 25 civil society organizations included community based, faith based, youth and non-government organizations, was conducted in May 2016 resulting in the appointment of the Solomon Islands Christian Association and the civil society umbrella body Development Services Exchange as lead organizations.

UNDP Country Office provided a four-day communication training from 18 to 21 July 2016. The training explored strategies and techniques to improve communication abilities. Members of SIEC/SECSIP Communications Awareness Team participated in sessions on communication plan and strategy. SECSIP Gender Officer Deborah Kole also attended this training.

During October and November 2015 a national survey focused on civic and voter education awareness had been carried out resulting in a report whose findings and recommendations were instrumental to detect the best tools to educate and train the population on civic and voter education areas. This survey formed the basis for the civic and 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.

Ahead of 2014 NGE, a total of 78,434 voter awareness materials of different kinds (posters, stickers, flyers, DVDs, wristbands) were distributed as reported in the annual report. A training program for 80 Assistant Returning Officers was successfully completed in mid-October 2014 through a 'Training of Trainers' model implemented by SIEC staff. The main topic was face to face voter education. Radio production and media management remained the focus of capacity building work within the communication and awareness team. During the first audience research visit in June, EO staff received some training in design of audience research surveys. On the second audience research visit, EO staff did survey design and logistics.

### **Activity 3.2: Increased implementation of civic and voter education activities**

#### **Indicator 3.2.1 % of electoral officials trained on civic education.**

**Results and activities summary:** As 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 run**

### **Activity 4.1: Strengthen legal capacity of the SIEC and PPC to improve electoral legislation submitted for approval**

#### **Indicator 4.1.1 # of legal electoral instruments SIEC, PPC and other relevant authorities ensure compliance with.**

##### **Results and activities summary:**

SECSIP contributed to electoral legal reform by engaging a legislative drafter who worked with the Electoral Reform Task Force in drafting three bills for Cabinet approval: the Electoral Bill, the Political Parties Integrity (Amendment) Bill, and Constitution (Consequential Amendment) Bill. At the request of the Electoral Reform Task Force, UNDP SECSIP engaged Legal Adviser and Legislative Drafter Consultant Rupeni Nawaqakuta in September 2017 to review and complete the drafting of the Reform Bills. This consultant had been previously identified and engaged by the European Union during an initial three months period when the initial drafts were prepared. The legal framework was finally passed by the National Parliament in the last week of August 2018 with the adoption of the Constitutional Amendment Act (22 August) and the new Electoral Act (24 August).

Upon adoption of the new Electoral Act 2018, SECSIP contributed to the preparation of the subsidiary legislation via regulations. Of particular note was SECSIP proposal for the revision of administrative forms which led for the first time to the introduction of the grounds for voter registration objections facilitating a more consistent and coherent decision-making process during Public Hearings. 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.

As a part of south to south / regional collaboration among political actors, SECSIP supported the organization, identification and logistics for the participation of the Solomon Islands delegation in the Pacific Political Parties Conference (Vanuatu, September 2018). Participation in these fora provided an avenue to analyse the legal framework of political parties and its impact on political stability for the consolidation of democracy.

An Electoral Reform Task Force chaired by OSIEC Chief Electoral Officer was established in March 2015 with the mandate of assisting the Prime Minister's Office to conduct a number of preparatory reform tasks. The Electoral Reform Task Force was an advisory body comprised by representatives of PMO, SIEC and PPC to assess and provided guidance and advice on issues related to reform package including the election system and the strengthening of the political parties system. 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. SECSIP support was instrumental for the organization of the Conference on Election Systems held in May 2015 which presented various options and resulted in the issuance of recommendations with a view to attain a more inclusive and participatory election system.

In 2016, a high level electoral reform workshop (25 and 26 February 2016) took place in Honiara organised by the Electoral Reform Task Force to review and discuss potential alternatives to the current FPTP system. SECSIP contributed to the identification, engagement, funding and organization of this workshop which was facilitated by two Senior Electoral Experts from International IDEA. The experts provided the Electoral Reform Task Force with a detailed overview by comparing electoral systems and their ascribed strengths and weaknesses in regard to representation, accountability, boundary delimitation, simplicity, 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. Participants included the Speaker of Parliament/Chairperson of SIEC Hon. Ajilon Nasiu, prospective Electoral Commissioner Ms. Taesi Sanga, the Registrar of the PPC Mr. Calvin Zirui, the A/CEO, Mr. Alphonsus Pero and other OSIEC senior officials.

Following these workshops, two dialogues were held in Honiara during August 2016 on options for a new election system which was facilitated by senior expert Prof. Andrew Ellis. The first, with the Members of Parliament, was held on 23 and 24 August. This was followed by a second Dialogue 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 the main features and the advantages and disadvantages of some election systems. The Dialogues were conceived as a follow-up action to the 'White Paper on Election System which could be adopted in Solomon Islands' tabled in Parliament during the last week of May. 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. The Electoral Reform Task Force conducted the provincial consultations during the last week of November and first week of December 2016 to raise awareness on possible options for the election system.

As part of UNDP SECSIP support to activities of analysis, assessment and recommendations on the Political Parties legislation for the strengthening of a multi-party system, SECSIP supported the PPC in the organization and logistics of the Series of Consultations held during the last two weeks of August 2016 in Honiara to assist in the comprehensive review on possible changes to the legal framework on political parties legal framework. The scope of these workshops included issues in connection with the revision of the Political Parties Integrity Act, with the strengthening of political parties system, analysis of possible measures concerning candidates contending as independents, analysis of the formation of coalitions and of the resignation of MPs.

SECSIP in close collaboration with PPC, identified and supported the logistical and financial arrangements for the participation of the Solomon Islands Delegation on the two day regional conference focused on the theme of political and parliamentary stability held in Nadi, Fiji on 27 and 28 June 2016. The Solomon

Islands was comprised of Deputy Prime Minister, Members of Parliament, Members 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.

SECSIP identified and engaged Deveaux Consultants Inc. to develop a number of actions focused on the enhancement of political party leaders' skills and tools and the strengthening of the multi-party system. These consultants conducted a number of activities, for example, first in-country mission which included preliminary Consultations with the SI PPC, UNDP, development community, government officials and registered political parties (October 17-21, 2016), designed and facilitated trainings on: local branch development, party organization, fundraising, communication and advocacy, strategic planning, and campaign planning.

In 2017, completion of a foundation skills programme by international governance consultancy firm, Deveaux. 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. On 13 February 2017, The Electoral Reform Task Force (ERTF) resumed its plan of provincial consultations conducting six (6) provincial consultations 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.

The final consultation with Honiara City Council had a turnout of 80 participants. 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.

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 2<sup>nd</sup> White Paper on the electoral reform debated in Parliament in May 2017.

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

### **Activity 5.1: Strengthen capacity of the SIEC, PPC national authorities and CSOs to advocate for women's participation in politics and decision making**

**Indicator 5.1.1 # of staff of SIEC, PPC and civil society organizations are trained to advocate for women in politics.**

**Results and activities summary:**

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. 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.



Figure: Distribution of MPs by gender after NGE 2019 and 2014 and East Makira by-election 2019

In 2019 NGE, out of 26 women candidates contested for 9 provinces except Rennell and Bellona, 17 candidates had affiliation with political parties and 9 were independent candidates. A total of 7 women candidates of 2019 NGE had also participated in 2014 NGE. The percentage of people who voted for women candidates in 2019 was 4.49% of the total number of votes. It was higher than the percentage of people who voted in 2014 NGE for women candidates (2.72% of the total number of votes). While the number of female candidates remained the same (26) as in 2014, there has been a decrease in the total (male and female) number of candidates. Therefore, in relative terms, in 2019 the percentage of elected candidates over nominated candidates was 7.69% for women (15.69% for male candidates) while in 2014 NGE, it was 3.85% for women (10.40% for men). In terms of the total votes casted in a specific constituency, a woman candidate was able to secure more than 50% of total votes casted in her constituency in 2019 whereas no woman could secure such percentage of votes in 2014 NGE. Additionally, three (3) women candidates secured between 30-40% of votes in 2019 whereas no woman did attain this in 2014 NGE. The table (exerted from NGE result analysis report) below shows the polling data for women candidates.

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
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	

\*1 woman candidate also won in East Makira by-election held in 12 Dec 2019

SECSIP engaged an Adviser on Women Leadership and Political Participation who contributed to improve the capacity of SIEC to address the issue of women's political participation. SECSIP organized two

candidate schools for women candidates and male champions for NGE 2019 and provincial elections. The first candidate school, organised from 25 February to 1 March, was attended by NGE women candidates and one male supporter for each candidate. A total of 15 women candidates and 15 male supporters participated throughout the



Women candidate school ahead of 2019 NGE

one-week training. Following the successful completion of the first candidate school, SECSIP organized the second school from 4 to 8 March for 19 women intending to run for the 2019 elections for provincial assemblies. This capacity building initiative ended with key remarks for the International Women's Day. Ministry of Justice and Legal Affairs Permanent Secretary Ms. Ethel Sigimanu, Australian High Commissioner Counsellor Ms. Melissa Stutsel 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 engaged by SECSIP. The content of the candidate schools was designed according to the findings of SECSIP Research conducted in early 2018 as well as the feedback provided by women candidates during different gatherings of women leaders.

SECSIP also organised three candidate school trainings in 2019 for 16 women candidates running for provincial assemblies' elections in Isabel, Malaita, Guadalcanal and the Central Provinces which assisted to enhance basic knowledge about relevant legal framework particularly the Provincial Government Act and electoral regulations. Topics included in these 3-day trainings were election campaign basics, fundraising, campaign planning, voter targeting, message development, campaign communication, etc. A total of 32 women registered to contest in the provincial government election on 12 June 2019. At the end of training, the participants developed their own campaign messages, posters and action plans with

implementation strategies. In addition to candidate schools training, SECSIP Women Leadership Adviser provided one to one coaching to candidates on how to address challenges during the campaign period.

The project established four resource centres in Malaita, Makira, Isabel and Honiara provinces for women candidates in NGE 2019 and provincial assembly elections. This enhanced 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 three hosting entities (YMCA, Malaita Provincial Council of Women and Makira Provincial Council of Women) which provided the office spaces. SECSIP provided IT equipment (laptop, printer, 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 the 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 office equipment provided to women resource centres to hosting entities (Provincial Council of Women of Malaita, Isabel and Makira and the Young Women's Christian Association).



Handing over of resources to host entities

A women support network is established late 2018 and active to facilitate different events and advocate for women political participation. Electoral Commissioner Ms. Taesi Sanga chaired the meeting of this network.

SECSIP also engaged 15 CSOs during 2017 to 2019 and provided capacity building supports to these CSOs so that they could disseminate information about electoral issues and gender equality. On average 34 journalists (total 204 persons through 6 programs including repeated persons) were also trained on fair and credible reporting of electoral issues irrespective of gender of candidates in 2018 and 2019.

SECSIP support was instrumental to organise a Poster and Essay Competition on Women's Leadership which provided an avenue for debate and awareness raising on topics related to women political participation. The School Poster and Essay competition was officially launched at the provincial chamber in BUALA, the provincial capital of Isabel province on 13 October 2017. A total of 210 secondary school students and teachers participated in this action. Information and materials were sent to all secondary schools in the country across the 10 provinces including Honiara town. A total of 170 participants (students and teachers) benefited from this activity which received entries as follows: a) Poster- 37 participants (23 female); b) Essay- 133 participants (including 74 female) across all three categories (Junior, Senior and Teachers).

The EU Ambassador HE Leonidas Tezapsidis presented the awards to the winners in senior student category. 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.



EU Ambassador providing certificate to a winner

In 2016, as an initiative to start addressing gender barriers and to facilitate engagement and discussion amongst the next generation of policy makers, youth and children, as well their teachers and parents, SECSIP developed in conjunction with OSIEC Senior Management a ToR to organize an 'Essay Competition on Women's Political Participation' with the support and partnership of the Ministry. A workshop focused on the lessons-learned of the inaugural competition held in 2016 was conducted in March 2017 to gather feedback and enhance implementation of the Essay Competition initiative. 29 Participants (7 female) attended the workshop including Education Officers, School Principals, Head of School departments and teachers.

In 2017, UNDP 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 in a three-day conference from 28 to 30 March 2017 organised by UNDP Pacific Office. The programme introduced 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.



Another activity focusing on women's empowerment was the "Equality in education" film. This film was entirely planned, designed and produced by 15 women belonging to the Matakai community in Bellona as a result of SECSIP grant with Village Technology Trust (VTT). In 2017, Village Technology Trust commenced implementation of the project to promote equal participation of Bellonese Women in Solomon Islands Leadership and Politics. This project included a 3-day long workshop (14-18 August) targeting 18 community members (15 female and 3 male) of the Matangi Women's Association (MWA) for the exploration and discussions on collective knowledge of women's leadership, and to identify cultural and other barriers for women to be successfully elected to political leadership positions.

On 26 May 2016 during the Gender Equality and Women's Development Capacity Building Workshop, SECSIP facilitated sessions on project envisaged activities and support towards gender advocacy in the areas of leadership and political participation for MWYFA desk officers.

A Regional Conference on Women's Leadership and Political Participation was held in Honiara from 2 to 4 June 2015. The conference was organized by the Political Parties Commission with technical and logistical support from SECSIP and in association with EU, OSIEC, UN Women and Young Women's Parliamentary Group. Regional and national experts from Honiara, Temotu, Isabel, Fiji, Vanuatu, Samoa and PNG (including Autonomous Government of Bougainville) were in attendance.



EU Ambassador Leonidas Tezapsidis addressing the conference participants

OSIEC Gender Focal point had been appointed and trained by SECSIP Gender Specialist in 2015 and this had resulted in jointly organized gender awareness related sessions in Honiara (September and October 2015) and in the provinces during the month of November.

## **Activity 5.2: Support legislation review and drafting in relation to women's leadership and participation in political life**

### **Indicator 5.2.1 # of laws passed to improve the situation of women in political decision making.**

#### **Results and activities summary:**

SECSIP commissioned a research on Women's Leadership and Political Participation in 10 selected constituencies in 2018. The study analyses the leadership and political participation of women through, a) assessing the historical voting practices in constituencies as they relate to women candidates, b) characterising the type of voters who are more and less inclined to vote for women candidates and why this is the case, and c) identifying the factors that are considered as the most significant in limiting or

enabling electoral success. This study provided the basis to design capacity building actions for women candidates and awareness raising initiatives for voters.

After 2019 NGE, SECSIP organised a reflection workshop on 15 May in Honiara. The workshop was attended by 12 NGE women candidates who contested in 12 constituencies in Guadalcanal, Choiseul, Malaita, Makira and Isabel provinces and Honiara as well. The participants provided several recommendations related to policy and legislation, future role of SECSIP and women based organisations which will be instrumental to design/update policies to create enabling environment for women political leadership.



Workshop with women candidates after 2019 NGE

An action plan 2018-2019 to encourage women leadership and political participation was developed by SECSIP Senior Elections Adviser Mr. Carlos Valenzuela 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 had 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. SECSIP CTA and Adviser on Women Leadership and Political Participation (contracted in 2018) provided technical expertise to the TSM Task Force led by the MWYFA. SECSIP Adviser on Women Leadership and Political Participation also provided technical expertise to the newly formed provincial government of Western Province on the introduction of TSM at its provincial assembly. She also facilitated a presentation held on 14 September 2018 in Gizo of Western Province.

A Policy on Gender and Social Inclusion had been drafted by SECSIP Gender Specialist in 2015. National Voter Awareness Strategy, adopted by SIEC in March 2016, was developed taking into consideration the input of SIEC gender focal point included an integrated perspective, actions and recommendations to enhance voter awareness including gender related aspects.

In 2016, SECSIP organized and funded the study visit to Samoa of Ms. Madlyn Lagusu, OSIEC Senior Training Officer who is also the Focal Point for Women 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 legislative reform and that require a minimum of 5 seats for female MPs. Madlyn Lagusu also conducted an analysis of the training activities in the lead-up to the



election in particular the measures adopted with a view to a more gender sensitive and inclusive EMB. This led to a lessons learned presentation facilitated by Ms. Lagusu on 18 March 2016. Ms. Lagusu, together with SECSIP Gender and Elections Officer and International Consultant on Elections developed training materials targeting female electoral officials.

A Pacific Regional Conference on TSM was held in Papua New Guinea on 23-24 November 2015. The Conference included a discussion on Temporary Special Measures in the context of women's political and public participation with the presentation of the case studies of TSM in Samoa and in New Caledonia and panel discussions on efforts to increase women's political participation in the Pacific. SECSIP sponsored the attendance of the stakeholders from the Solomon Islands:

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

## F. EU Visibility

SECSIP throughout its implementation of different activities ensured the visibility of donors including EU and Australian government by acknowledging the contribution of donors, displaying logos and, where possible, by ensuring the presence of donor representatives in the events. All of its six-monthly and annual reports included the acknowledgement texts *'SECSIP is implemented in partnership with the Solomon Islands Electoral Commission. It receives financial assistance from the Government of Australia, the European Union and UNDP'* and logos as well.

- a) SECSIP contributed to the photo exhibition "The Power of Democracy" in New York from 19 Sep to 5 Oct, 2018. SECSIP provided a canvas reflecting project's contribution to enhance voter awareness with youth through activities held in secondary schools such as mock elections and the poster and essay competition on Women's Leadership and Political Participation. The inauguration ceremony took place on Wednesday 19 September and the event had been co-opened by Mr. Abdoulaye Mar Dieye, Assistant Secretary-General and Director of UNDP's Bureau for Policy and Programme Support, Mr. Craig Jenness, Director of the Electoral Assistance Division of the Department of Political Affairs and a representative from the European Union Delegation.



SECSIP Canvas showing voter awareness results



EU Ambassador providing certificate to a winner

b) The EU Ambassador to SI, HE Leonidas Tezapsidis presented the awards to the winners in senior student category after a poster and essay competition on women leadership in October 2017. 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.

c) Some knowledge products:

KAP Study	Gender Study	Electoral risk assessment

d) Cover page of MOU signed by government ministries for SECSIP Graduate Programme



e) SECSIP brochure and leaflet



f) Some voter awareness materials



Voter Registration 2018 Poster