

Lebanese Elections Assistance Project – Phase II

Project Number 00119194

General Information		Contact Information	
Short Title	LEAP Phase II	CTA/Project Manager	Dan Radulescu
Geographic Coverage	Lebanon	Number of Staff	10 full-time (1 international, 6 national SCs, 3 UNVs)
Project Status	On-going	Donors & Total Budget 2020-2023	
Start Date	1 January 2020	EU	\$6,600,660
Expected End Date	31 December 2023		
Implementing Agency	UNDP (DIM Modality)	Total	\$6,600,660

Background

UNDP Lebanese Electoral Assistance Project (LEAP) has the main objective to strengthen institutions and processes for the conduct of transparent and inclusive elections in Lebanon. Through a multi-component approach, the project has the intended outcomes of providing technical assistance and support in the following key electoral areas: (1) management and administration of elections (2) supervision and monitoring of elections (3) resolution of electoral disputes and (4) initiatives to enhance inclusiveness and awareness of voters and citizens through voter education, civic education and capacity development. This component will have a particular focus on women, youth and first-time-voters and persons with disabilities. In the preparation of the upcoming municipal and parliamentary elections the project will provide technical assistance and advisory support to the electoral management bodies in the country. In addition, the project will work with civil society organizations and civic groups to enhance awareness and knowledge on the legal framework, rights and responsibilities, democratic values and relevant electoral data.

Main Achievements

In accordance with its mandate, LEAP Phase I supported in 2016 the organization and conduct of municipal elections, in four consecutive phases across the country. In 2018 the project supported the preparation and implementation of the 2018

parliamentary elections, after nine years of postponements. Subsequently, in 2019 LEAP provided assistance in the organization of municipal and legislative by-elections, in accordance with the electoral legal framework.

The project provided electoral support and assistance to the Electoral Management Body in Lebanon – the Ministry of Interior and Municipalities (MoIM) - in key electoral areas such as:

- Voter registration update
- Voter education and awareness campaigns
- Candidates registration
- Electoral operations and logistics
- Electoral dispute resolution system
- Training and capacity building
- Results management system
- Accreditation of observers and media
- Accessibility of data and communication.

The project supported the establishment of the SCE in 2017 and provided technical assistance and advisory support to the commission throughout the pre-electoral, electoral and post-electoral periods.

In addition, throughout the first phase, UNDP LEAP partnered with national CSOs and international organizations in an attempt to strengthen women participation and representation in the political life. Through this component, LEAP co-organized training sessions for women candidates developed and produced knowledge brochures and thematic video clips.

Future plans

For the second phase, the project intends to build upon its achievements and continue enhance institutional capacity of the Ministry of Interior and Municipalities - the Electoral Management Body in Lebanon and strengthen key electoral processes towards the upcoming elections through:

- Continuous support in the area of electoral operations planning and implementation;
- Technical support in the area of training and capacity building;
- Enhanced cooperation and support to the voter education and awareness campaign effort;
- Continuous support and assistance to strengthen awareness and enhance awareness of voters and citizens at large.

The technical assistance provided to the Supervisory Commission for Elections will continue for the implementation of the Strategic Plan 2020-2022, developed by the commission in 2019. Among key areas:

- Strengthened assistance to the electoral supervisory and monitoring capabilities during electoral periods;
- Assist in the accreditation of observers, media and candidates agents;

- Contribute to the civic education effort, as part of the SCE mandate.

The electoral dispute resolution (EDR) system will be supported through technical assistance provided to the Constitutional Council. This support will include:

- Institutional strengthening through briefings, studies and comparative data;
- Enhanced awareness, accessibility and knowledge on the EDR process through a dedicated website, thematic brochures and workshops.

The collaboration and partnership with civil society organizations and civic groups will be enhanced aiming at raising awareness, meaningful participation and electoral knowledge through:

- Thematic events and workshops on women and youth participation in the political life and elections;
- Thematic events and info sessions aimed to increase awareness and promote concrete measures for better accessibility of persons with disabilities to electoral processes and political participation;
- Design and development of brochures, knowledge products and reports;
- Conduct of surveys and thematic research on relevant themes and topics of interest.