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ANNUAL PROGRESS REPORT 2013

Electoral Support Project, Nepal

• **Project Title:** Institutional Strengthening and Professional Development Support for the Election Commission of Nepal- Phase II (Electoral Support Project - ESP) • **Award ID:** 00049636	National level coverage (Yes/No): Yes Number of Regions covered: 5 Regions Number of Districts Covered: NA Number of Municipalities Covered: NA Number of VDCs Covered: NA
Strategic Results	**Implementing Partner(s)**
UNDAF Outcome: Institutions, systems and processes of democratic governance are more accountable, effective, efficient and inclusive (UNDAF Outcome 5.1)	United Nations Development Programme
UNDAF/CPAP Output: Election Commission of Nepal has the capacity to conduct credible, inclusive and transparent elections (UNDAF Output 5.1.1)	United Nations Development Programme
Project Budget (US$)	**Project Duration**
UNDP Contribution: USD 2,500,000	Start Date(day/month/year):1/ 02/ 2012
Government Contribution: NA	End Date(day/month/year): 31\01\2016
Other Contributions:	**Implementation Modality** Direct Implementation Modality (DIM)
Donor Contributions:	EU : USD 10,840,000 DFID : USD 8,500,000 Norway: USD 2,900,000 Denmark: USD 740,000
Unfunded:	NA
Total project budget: USD 25,480,000 **Total approved budget for 2013:** **USD 8,257,748**	

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Acronyms

AWP	Annual Work Plan
BRIDGE	Building Resources in Democracy, Governance and Elections
CA	Constituent Assembly
CPAP	Country Programme Action Plan
DPA	Department of Political Affairs
ECN	Election Commission of Nepal
EDR	Election Dispute Resolution
EEIC	Electoral Education and Information Center
EEVs	Electoral Education Volunteers
ESP	Electoral Support Project
FPTP	First -Past -the -Post
GE/SI	Gender Equality, Women's Empowerment, and Social Inclusion
GIS	Geographic Information System
GPS	Global Positioning System
HLPC	High Level Political Committee
IEC	Interim Election Committee
IFES	International Foundation of Electoral Systems
IDEA	Institute for Democracy and Electoral Assistance
JEOC	Joint Election Operation Center
MRToT	Master's Regional Training of Trainers
NPI	Nepal Press Institute
NY	New York
PEB	Project Executive Board
PR	Proportional Representation
PSAs	Public Service announcement
RC	Resident Coordinator
SAARC	South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation
UNDAF	United Nations Development Assistance Framework
UCPN (M)	United Communist Party of Nepal (Maoist)
VR	Voter Registration

SNAP SHOTS
NEPAL'S CA ELECTION 2013

1. Executive Summary

The year '2013' is marked as a year of great achievements in the process of democratization and electoral reform in Nepal with the successful election of the second Constituent Assembly on 19 November 2013.

UNDP's long term support to electoral reform through its Electoral Support Project (ESP) contributed to the organization and conduct of the 2013 CA elections in an inclusive, credible and peaceful manner. Throughout the year, the ESP focused on supporting the Election Commission of Nepal (ECN) in its preparations for the 19 November elections including expanding the team with twelve additional international (10 advisors funded by the ESP and two advisors funded by AusAid) and five national electoral advisors to work with ECN in each of the five development regions. The advisors together with translators were co-located within the ECN regional offices and worked to support the activities of the ECN District Election Offices. In addition to the regional presence, the project provided extensive and significant support to the ECN at its headquarters in planning and preparation for elections, particularly in the areas of trainings, voter registration, voter education, policy advice and election operations and logistics.

Public service announcements were broadcasted in 29 local languages on 12 national TV and 350 radio/FM channels throughout the country. Seven hundred and twenty street dramas were performed in all 240 constituencies to educate voters about voting procedures. A call centre was established at ECN Headquarters that provided support in responding to voters queries on the electoral process. This comprehensive awareness raising contributed to one of the highest voters' turnout of 79.9% (62.5% in 2008) in the electoral history of Nepal and a reduction in invalid votes by 0.46% in Proportional Representation and by 0.19% in the First-Past-The-Post electoral system, according to the Election Commission of Nepal, as compared to 2008.

The ESP's continuous technical assistance to the ECN in the area of information communication and technology and voter registration contributed in the successful registration of 12.1 million eligible voters (1. 3 million registered in 2013) , printing of voters' roll with photographs and distribution of voters' identification cards. This enhanced effectiveness in the conduct of the voter registration countrywide ensured that only those on the voter rolls could vote, avoiding proxy and multiple voting. In previous elections, the voters' lists were manual with no room for de-duplication and re-verification of voters' information. International observers and political parties acknowledged that the biometric voters' lists with photographs contributed to making the elections fair and peaceful.

The Joint Election Operation Center (JEOC), Media Center and Observers Resource Centers supported by the ESP were critical during the elections. Media Center and Observers Resource Centers expedited accreditation of national and international observers, and flow of information through press conferences, media briefs and announcement of election results. The JEOC was a hub for coordination of election operations, logistics and security related matters that helped the ECN to take immediate decisions and also to mitigate electoral violence and disputes. The Geographic Information System (GIS) mapping of polling locations also assisted the Government in developing an integrated elections security plan that served as the base for deployment of security forces during the elections. Electoral trainings were conducted on thematic areas including security, media, polling and counting, voter

education, logistics and management. UNDP supported the ECN to train 1131 Master/Regional Trainers in seven thematic areas, who ultimately trained more than 250,000 polling officials deployed during elections.

The ESP also provided technical support to the Election Commission of Nepal (ECN) to develop and launch its first Gender and Social Inclusion Policy. The sustained technical assistance of UNDP in the area of gender and social inclusion contributed in making 2013 CA elections inclusive: the ECN prohibited using gender insensitive language in electoral campaigning, more than 50% of elections volunteers were women, 120 polling centers in 59 districts were fully managed by female staff, electoral guidelines were reviewed to mainstream gender and social inclusion and provisions were made to support pregnant women, women with infants, elderly and people with disabilities at the polling centers. Total number of women in CA is yet to be known, however, women won 29.91% out of 575 elected seats.

As part of its support, the ESP facilitated procurement of more than 25 sensitive and non-sensitive materials that were vital for the success of 2013 CA elections. Some of the key procurement supp	, were in the following areas: 485 metric tons of papers for printing ballots for First-Past-the-Post and Proportional Representation electoral system, cutting and numbering machines for printing of ballots, 20,000 bags for polling and returning officers to carry essential electoral materials and various hardware and software supporting election administration.

2. Background and Context

Political ambiguity, which was brought about after the dissolution of the first Constituent Assembly (CA) in May 2012 continued for most of the year. In order to end a political stalemate, in January 2013, a High Level Political Mechanism (HLPM) was formed by three major political parties: the Unified Communist Party of Nepal (Maoist), the Nepali Congress and the Communist Party of Nepal – Unified Marxist Leninist (CPN-UML) and later joined by the United Democratic Madhesi Front . In March 2013, based on the political consensus and following presidential order to remove constitutional difficulties, a government was formed under the leadership of a sitting Chief Justice to hold fresh CA elections. The new CA is mandated to complete the drafting of the country's constitution.

In order to initiate preparations for elections, the positions of election commissioners that remained vacant since after the retirement of commissioners, including the chief election commissioner in 2012, were filled in March 2013. Mr. Neel Kantha Uprety was appointed as the Chief Election Commissioner and four other Election Commissioners were also appointed as envisioned in the Interim Constitution of Nepal 2007.

The election of the second Constituent Assembly was announced for 19 November 2013 with major political parties agreeing to take part. Negotiations between the Government and HLPM with an alliance of 33 poll opposing parties, led by a breakaway faction of UCPN (Maoist), continued to bring all the political forces to consensus to join the electoral process. After political negotiations failed, the agitating political parties called for a nationwide strike that continued until Election Day.

Through the period of political uncertainty, the ESP together with development partners provided its support to the ECN with flexibility to accommodate the ECN requirements as per the changing context in its preparation for free, fair and credible elections. Against this background and amidst tight security, the Election Commission held the 19 November elections with participation of 122 political parties, reduced levels of electoral violence and a record turnout of an average 79.9% of registered voters.

3. Project Summary and Objectives

UNDP's assistance to the Election Commission of Nepal through the ESP is provided in line with UNDP's mandate to work with developing countries in the areas of professional development and democratic governance. The "electoral cycle approach" is closely reflected and applied to the overall strategy of the present Electoral Support Project. It focuses on the notion that the provision of event-driven support is no longer attractive, sustainable and effective in terms of cost-benefit and achieving enduring results, and that the impact of electoral support on broader governance and development goals must be taken into account.

Phase II of the project (2012 -2016) focuses on long-term electoral capacity building in addition to operational support during electoral cycles. Some of the strategic areas of interventions of Phase II are as follows:

a. **Long-term capacity building:** The ESP continues to be centered on the provision of sustained institutional strengthening and professional development assistance initiatives to assist the ECN in its efforts to strengthen and enhance its own capacity to function as a permanent, professional and independent electoral management body.

b. **Operational support for upcoming series of elections:** The ESP is also centered on providing immediate operational support, particularly in view of the national election and, possibly, local elections to be conducted once the new Constitution of Nepal is finalized or the current Interim Constitution of Nepal amended.

c. **Democratic participation:** Increasing awareness of electorates on governance and electoral processes, especially of disadvantaged and vulnerable groups (women and ethnic minorities) so they could meaningfully participate prior as well as during elections.

4. **Narrative on Key Results Achieved in 2013**

4.1 Progress towards the UNDAF/CPAP Outcome

With the successful election of the second Constituent Assembly (CA) in November 2013, Nepal made significant strides towards ending the long transition period and brought back popularly elected institutions, at least at the central level. When the CA/legislative-parliament that was elected in 2008 was dissolved in May 2012, the country was left with no elected bodies. The new CA is mandated to draft and promulgate the new constitution and put in place systems and institutions for democratic governance.

The election was conducted remarkably well, with very high voter participation. Nepal witnessed a historic voters' turnout of 79.9% (against 62.49% of voters' turnout in previous 2008 election). This is extremely impressive given Nepal's difficult topography, poor road networks, and literacy rate. The success of the 2013 election is further validated by a reduction in invalid votes by 0.46 % in Proportional Representation and by 0.19 % in First-Past-The-Post electoral system, compared to the election in 2008.

The electoral outcome, not least in terms of voter turnout, is attributed mainly to the biometric voter registration, the distribution of voters' ID cards before the election, and voter and civic educat. Based on the lessons learnt from the CA election in 2008, the ECN initiated an ambitious electoral reform plan. Introduction of the biometric voters roll with photographs is the most important reform area. UNDP provided technical support to establish, operate and update the system as well as to print the voters list. A total of 12.1 million voters (50.76% female and 49.23% male) were registered which was 79.35% of total eligible voters of 18 years and above. Further, UNDP assisted the Commission in printing and distributing the voters' ID cards with photographs.

There were 3 international[1] and 54 national organizations involved in election observation. Their reports state that the election was held in a free, fair, and credible manner; and that the biometric voter registration with photographs, and the distribution of voters' identification cards contributed significantly to the high turnout. The reforms ensured that only legitimate voters who were registered on voters' roll could take part in elections, avoiding proxy and multiple voting.

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[1] EU Observation Mission, Carter Center and ANFREL

The high turnout could also be due to tremendous voter education campaigns initiated by the ECN and civil society organizations. UNDP supported the ECN in conducting a nationwide voter education campaign through the use of print, electronic and social media. A total of 720 street dramas were conducted in all 240 constituencies to educate voters on the electoral process, voting system and procedures. A call center was established with the support of UNDP to address the queries of the voters on electoral system and processes. The Commission mobilized more than 4700 social mobilizers trained by UNDP to work with local governments on improving voter education.

UNDP's contribution to the capacity building of government institutions ensured the smooth operation of the elections. The Joint Election Operation Center established by UNDP at the Election Commission streamlined the Commission's operations and security management throughout the electoral period. Similarly, the Media Center and Observers Resource Center supported by UNDP were of utmost use during elections in accreditation of observers and in organizing press conferences, media briefings, and announcement of results on Election Day. UNDP also supported the Election Commission in mapping polling locations with GIS and helped the Government in developing a national integrated security plan that supported the deployment of security forces.

Enhancing participation and representation of women and marginalized groups in electoral processes was one of the major focuses of UNDP in 2013. UNDP supported the ECN to develop and launch its first Gender and Social Inclusion Policy. This is very innovative instrument in Nepal to empower women in electoral processes as it provides a broader framework and strategy for the ECN to enhance its capacity as a gender and social inclusion sensitive institution. UNDP also collaborated with UN Women and civil society organizations at different levels and organized a nationwide sensitization campaigns to enhance women's participation as voters and candidates. The total number of women in CA is yet to be known, however, women won 29.91% out of 575 seats through First-Past –the –Post and Proportional Representation electoral system. This number can increase with the remaining 26 seats of the CA members to be appointed soon.

4.2 Progress on Outputs

Project Output 1: Strengthened capacity of the ECN to function as a permanent, independent, credible and professional institution of governance

Activity Result 1.1: Support with Strategic Planning
The ESP supported the ECN to digitalise and archive its historical documents. Around 30,000 pages of historical documents, which include party constitutions, party manifestos, minute books, results of national and local elections 2043/44, results of lower house of representation and local elections 2049, and results of local election 2054 were digitized. This digitization process will help preserve historical materials and ensure ECN's institutional memory.

Activity 1.2: Support with Long-Term Professional Development and Staff Retention
A total of 49 participants were trained in two Building Resources in Democracy, Governance and Elections (BRIDGE) modules on Voter Registration and Electoral Management and Administration. These trainings were provided to media representatives and newly appointed ECN staff and were organized in collaboration with the International Foundation of Electoral Systems (IFES) and International Democracy and Electoral Assistance (IDEA). The ECN staffs trainers were mobilized

during elections. However, after the announcement of the election date all the BRIDGE partners strategically had to put on hold the forthcoming trainings and prioritized the election related trainings in preparation for elections.

Activity 1.3: Support with Geographic Information System (GIS) and Electoral Mapping System

With technical assistance of the ESP, the ECN was able to locate more than 10,000 polling locations across the country using a google earth based polling location mapping tool. The system is currently implemented at the Joint Election Operation Centre (JEOC), Media Centre and Elections Observation Centre. This system contributed to significantly enhance the transparency and efficiency of the electoral process. An electoral atlas and maps of 75 districts showing all 240 constituencies were also produced through the GIS unit that helped the ECN for logistic and operational planning during elections. It also contributed to the Government in developing an integrated security plan for the 2013 CA elections that supported the deployment of security forces during elections.

Activity 1.4: Support with creation and display of new voter register

Figure 1 Voter Registration in Nuwakot District

In order to enhance the accuracy of the electoral process, the ESP continued providing technical assistance to the ECN in implementation of the nationwide biometric voter registration (VR) program. ECN registered a total of 12.1 million (50.76% female) voters aged 18 years and above; out of which 1. 3 million were registered in 2013. The new biometric voters list underwent claims and objection for clear identification of the voters and with technical assistance of the ESP, the ECN successfully published the new voters roll with photographs that were used in 2013 CA elections. The new vot' identification cards were also distributed to the voters prior to the CA elections. It ensured that only those on the voter rolls could vote, avoiding proxy and multiple voting. In previous elections, the voters' lists were manual with no room for de-duplication and re-verification of voters' information. International observers and political parties acknowledged that the biometric voters' lists contributed to making the elections fair and peaceful.

In order to facilitate the development of software for continuous voter registration, feasibility study on voter registration software was also completed. The new software will be developed and operationalized in 2014.

Project output 2: Election cycle conducted in an effective, sustainable and credible manner

Activity 2.1: Support with procedures and training

Figure 2: Training at EEIC on Election Preparation

The ESP supported the ECN in conducting a wide range of trainings for the CA elections 2013. A total of 44 events in 7 thematic topics were held with assistance from the ESP - communication, voter education, logistic and accounts management, security, polling and counting, election management for chief returning officers and returning officers, election observation for observers as well as general computer training for those taking part in election administration. A total of 1131 government officials deployed during elections were trained through these trainings (Annex 1). These trained staff significantly contributed to the smooth operation and management of the CA Elections. All these trainings were planned in collaboration with the ECN, IDEA and IFES. The ESP also contributed in development of policy related documents, directives, and resource books for various elections related trainings.

Activity 2.2: Support with elections operations and logistics

For the CA elections 2013, the ESP played a significant role in supporting the ECN on election operations and logistics. With technical inputs of the Project, the ECN prepared operational plans under each of its department. These plans helped the ECN in smooth management and administration of electoral logistics and operations.

Figure 3: Inauguration of Joint Election Operation Center

Figure 4: Papers for Printing Ballots stored at Printing House (Janak Education Materials Centers)

The Project supported the timely procurement of 25 items of sensitive and non –sensitive electoral material that were vital for the success of the elections. Some of the key procurement supports were in the following areas: cutting and numbering machines and 485 metric tons of paper for printing nearly 30 million ballots; 20,000 bags for polling and returning officers, Xerox machines and toners for printing 12.1 million voters identification cards, 12.5 million plastic pouches for protection of these cards and various hardware and software supporting elections.

On-site technical advisory support 'regional levels during elections were provided by 12 senior international regional advisors- 10 from UNDP and 2 from AusAid and 5 national electoral advisors. Two international advisors accompanied by a national advisor were co-located at each of the five regional offices of the ECN that contributed to smooth election operations.

The Joint Election Operation Center established by the ESP at the ECN streamlined the Commission's operations and security management. Similarly, the Media Center and Observers Resource Center supported by the ESP were of utmost use during elections in accreditation of observers and in organizing press conferences, media briefings, and announcement of results on Election Day. The Media Center was further strengthened through the project's support for ECN's media monitoring initiative for the 2013 CA elections; the project supported an institution to monitor, on behalf of the ECN, the media coverage during the electoral period both at the national and local level.

The Project also supported the establishment of a Call Centre to provide easily accessible information regarding voter registration, polling centres and other election related activities to voters and ot electoral stakeholders. Citizens could access this information by calling the toll free number provided by the ECN. In the period of November 14- 27, a total of 2500 calls were received in the centre from voters seeking election related information.

Activity 2.3: Support with electoral dispute resolution
The ESP continued to provide technical assistance at the central and regional level on international best practices in electoral dispute resolution. The project advised the international community on the importance of EDR and public awareness and information on the process. Existing EDR mechanism remained in place as a result of holding of 2013 CA election under the same legal framework as the 2008 CA election.

Technical support of the ESP assisted the ECN in seating allocation to the political parties following affirmative action as stated in the Interim Constitution and electoral laws. The Project provided technical support to the ECN through a renowned Norwegian international consultant in designing seat distribution and adjustment with the vote counting in line with the affirmative action as stated in the

Interim Constitution and electoral laws. It helped the ECN in systematic and timely announcement of seats won by political parties through Proportional representation electoral system.

Project Output 3: increased democratic participation in the next cycle of elections, particularly for under-represented and disadvantaged segments of the Nepali society

Activity 3.1: Public Outreach, Civic and Voter Education

Figure 5: Street Drama for Voter Education

The ESP supported the ECN in organizing a countrywide voter education campaign through the use of print, electronic and social media. The voter education initiative aimed at educating and raising public awareness on voters' rights and responsibilities for their meaningful participation. The Public Service Announcements (PSAs), TV and radio programmes were aired through 12 TV channels and 350 radio stations across the country. The street dramas were performed in all 240 constituencies and were customized in local languages.

There were customized voter education materials and programmes developed for physically challenged voters. Posters developed with sign languages, TV programs targeted hearing impaired, PSAs were broadcasted in sign language, and a voter education campaign using Facebook and other online services targeting the physically challenged.

The ESP also partnered with UN-Women to support local resource persons who conducted awareness raising events among women and disadvantaged communities at the regional level. This initiative was undertaken to encourage women and disadvantaged groups to take part in elections and be well informed about the electoral process including the importance of their representation in the CA elections.

This comprehensive awareness raising contributed to a high turnout of 79.9% (62.5% in 2008) of registered voters. There was also a reduction in invalid votes by 0.46% in Proportional Representation and by 0.19% in the First-Past-The-Post electoral system.

Activity 3.2: Support with Electoral Education and Information Centre (EEIC)

As of 2013, 11495 citizens (44% female, 56% male) visited the EEIC and took part in its 90-minute educational program. The visitors were mainly students from private and government schools, NGO/INGO representatives, political parties, security forces, people from religious groups, differently able groups and others. The majority of the visitors (more than 75%) reported an enhanced knowledge and awareness on elections and democratic issues after their visit.

The ECN has increased its allocation of budget to EEIC in 2013 compared to 2012. More than 80% of the EEIC operational costs in 2013 were supported through the ECN budget. The EEIC was instrumental during elections in planning and implementing public outreach and voter education campaigns and electoral trainings. Election related directives on voters' education, trainings, call centres, media monitoring, media observation logistics and operations were produced through the EEIC. These directives serve as the guiding principle which helped in making policies and programs for the ECN for the elections.

Figure 6: Visitors at EEIC

With the aim of engaging educational institutional in providing civic and voter education to stude , the centre also organised a civic and voter education training for 25 social studies from private and government schools. The centre also organised a Refreshment Training of Trainers on Voter Registration and Development for Electoral Education Volunteers (EEVs), who were mobilized all across the country.

Activity 3.3: Support with external relations

The ESP supported the ECN in establishing the Media Centre and Observers Resource Centre at the ECN Headquarters in Kathmandu, which served as the information resource for members of media, elections observers, political party representatives and other electoral stakeholders. The Media Centre hosted several press conferences, media briefings and announcement of results on Election Day. Through this Centre, press releases were sent to around 50 journalists nationwide through emails. The Centre hosted regular press conferences in which around 40-50 journalists from print and electronic media attended on a daily basis. The project hired seven media advisors, who assisted the ECN in enhancing their engagement with the media and in carrying out the various media related activities planned for the elections. The advisors advised the Commission on effective ways to inform the public

about the electoral process, highlighting the positive achievements of the ECN and develop key materials for ECN to better inform the public and other stakeholders. Whereas, the Observers Resource Centre handled the distribution of press passes and the accreditation of domestic and international electoral observers.

The ESP contracted with Nepal Press Institute (NPI) to carry out media monitoring of the CA Elections from November 1 to 30. NPI provided daily media monitoring updates to the ECN and based on these updates, ECN took action against some media houses for the breach of election code of conduct. NPI monitored 200 radio stations, 245 newspapers, 10 TV channels and 10 online news services. The first media report was submitted to ESP on 15 November.

Activity 4.1: Monitoring & Evaluation
The ESP through an independent national firm started a baseline survey to collect baseline data for indicators in 2013. The baseline data for most of the indicators are updated in Annex 3 as per the findings of baseline survey. Since baseline data were collected recently, the progress against some of the indicators will be shown in 2014 and following years only.

5. Cross Cutting Issues

5.1 Gender Equality, Women's Empowerment, and Social Inclusion
Activities for the Gender and Social Inclusion (GESI) component of the ESP focused on increasing democratic participation and representation of women and vulnerable groups through inclusive electoral processes. A landmark achievement in the year 2013 is the endorsement of gender and social inclusion policy envisioned to gradually strengthen structure and mechanisms of the commission to address gender and social inclusion concerns. The policy is grounded upon the national and international human rights instruments, legal framework and corresponding obligations of the government to promote gender equality and social inclusion. The policy provides a broad framework and strategy for the commission to enhance the capacity of the commission as a gender and social inclusion sensitive institution.

The GESI activities planned for the year 2013 after the announcement of the CA elections to be held in November were directed towards making this election gender sensitive and inclusive. Citizens, especially women and members of marginalized groups were targeted while designing processes of voter education, civic education and voter registration. As a result, the voter registration data shows that women outnumber their male counterpart resembling the population distribution of the country. In 2008 CA elections, less women were registered in comparison to men despite their larger share in the population. In partnership with UN Women special civic education was held for grassroots women and disadvantaged groups at the constituency level urging them to vote to ensure their own representation, question the candidates on their agendas for women and marginalized groups and vote for gender and inclusion sensitive candidates.

The different policies and guidelines prepared and adopted by the Election Commission have integrated gender and social inclusion concerns. The policies on voter education, recruitment of election officers, training and capacity building, and election observation call for increased participation of women and disadvantaged groups in the related electoral process and activities. Several provisions of election code of conduct calls for gender friendly election campaigning, prohibits use of gender and social inclusion insensitive language, character assassination of candidates etc.

Similarly, electoral law states that one of the criteria for ineligibility of political candidates is if they have been convicted of being involved in rape or trafficking of a human being. Provisions have been made to give priority to pregnant women and women with infants, elderly people and people with disabilities while voting in the Election Day.

The preliminary reports are showing that more than 50% of election volunteers were women. Women development officers of all districts are included in the district level election education coordination committees and women's participation in the similar coordination committee at the local level is also ensured. Fifty two percent of voters who participated in the elections were women.

The trainings and orientations for media and observer teams for elections by the Commission incorporated sessions on gender and social inclusion. Both the media and domestic election observer groups have been oriented on gender and inclusion issues of elections as well as given gender perspective to observe and report.

5.2 Capacity Development and Sustainability

5.2.1 Capacity Development

In the reporting period, with the active support of the ESP, the Election Commission enhanced its institutional capacity on implementation of biometric voter registration (VR) programme. The VR introduced by UNDP in 2009 was gradually institutionalized by the Election Commission with separate Voter List/Electoral Roll Units with 9 full time staff, voters' list data storage server operated for data verification and de-duplication and nationwide VR programme implemented by ECN. These sustained efforts resulted in a reliable and precise voters' roll with photographs of registered voters for the 2013 CA elections. Institutional strengthening of ECN in the area of GIS was evident due to well established and functional GIS Unit of ECN that mapped all the polling locations through GPS that was used during elections to plan election operations and logistics and security. Enhanced capacity of ECN on Gender and Social Inclusion could be validated through endorsement of Gender and Social Inclusion Policy in 2013 and engendering ECN directives and policies for 2013 elections.

5.2.2 Sustainability Strategy

Technical assistance for institutional strengthening, peer to peer support for knowledge transfer, cost sharing arrangements with counterparts for shared responsibilities and ownership are measures taken to ensure durability of results. Electoral Education and Information Centre is one of the best examples; the Centre, established with support of UNDP in 2012, is now operationized by ECN with 10 staff and covering 80% of its cost from the ECN budget. As of December 2013, 11,000 people visited the Centre that was managed by ECN trained staff. The EEIC was also a hub for public outreach, voter education and policy formulation during elections.

5.3 South-South Cooperation

The Chief Election Commissioner attended a meeting of Election Management Bodies of South Asia in Bhutan in 2013. It is an established forum for the Election Commissioners for long term regional planning, cross country sharing and learning. Senior officials of the ECN also attended a seminar to share and learn about interventions in South Asian Region on inclusive elections. Their learning contributed in providing inputs while finalizing ECN gender and social inclusion policy in 2013. ECN also

participated in off-site trainings on Web GIS based Electoral Mapping System that contributed in strengthening the ECN GIS Unit.

The project continued its support to strengthen ECN's networks with its counterparts in the region and beyond through exchange visits and study tours. These learning visits not only enhanced south-south cooperation but also supported the exchange of knowledge from Nepal to other countries and vice versa. In 2013, a total of 18 ECN officials including the Chief Election Commissioner, electoral stakeholders and ESP staff visited 8 countries.

6. Partnerships

Partnerships were key to the project's successful implementation in a very challenging political and operational environment. With a base in both the central ECN office and regional offices, the project was able to gain the trust and confidence of the ECN needed to effectively provide technical assistance. This close partnership between ESP staff and ECN officials ensured the timely completion of project activities as well as understanding when these activities could not be completed according to plan. Similarly, regular and frequent engagement with development partners was a best practice by the project and one that ensured the project's donors were aware of the challenges the project was facing in implementation during a very uncertain first half of 2013. This partnership enabled the project to have donor support when adapting to the continually changing operational environment. UNDP also actively engaged with DPA colleagues at the country level to provide coordinated and streamlined support to the 19 November elections. This engagement included regular ESP-DPA briefings to the RC, joint weekly reporting to the RC and joint video conferencing with NY colleagues. This level of joint engagement ensured there was coherent support to ECN and the Government of Nepal for the 2013 CA elections. Similarly, all the annual trainings planned for strengthening the professional capacity of the ECN officials and electoral stakeholders were planned collectively by the ECN, IIDEA, IFES and the ESP.

7. Lessons Learned/ Implementation Issues and Challenges

- The ESP technical assistance in 2013 was mostly focused in the areas of voter registration (information communication and technology), geographic information system, gender and social inclusion, public outreach and voter education etc. Due to limited discussion with the ECN, strategic focus could not be made in the areas of electoral dispute resolution and electoral security.

- Due to a last moment request made by the ECN to the ESP, most of the operational and procurement support was provided in last moment with limited duration for delivery. It was a challenge for UNDP to provide timely support following UNDP policies and procedures. Therefore, for local elections, the ESP will assist ECN to come up with a clear procurement plan for election and various agencies that will be contributing in various procurements.

- It was learned during 2013 CA elections, that the ECN needs further capacity enhancement in the area of election operations. Though the elections were well organized and ECN acknowledged for its timely operational and logistic planning, if there had been a well established system for election operations and logistic planning, such as comprehensive

operational plan and its implementation schedule, then the ECN could have managed elections more effectively and efficiently , limiting last moment ad-hoc arrangements.

- It was learned in 2013, that the ECN has a limited capacity in the area of procurement. Due to which the Commission was not able to manage election related procurements that were diverted mostly to UNDP in the last hour. Therefore, the ESP will work in collaboration with the ECN to identify areas in procurement that need to be strengthened and plan activities accordingly.

- Despite the ECN endorsement of the Gender and Social Inclusion Policy near to the election date, the policy proved instrumental to making the election gender sensitive and inclusive. The commitment from the ECN towards developing targeted work is required to implement the policy.

8. Specific Stories

Joint Electoral Operations Centre

In order to ensure smooth coordination among ECN, Ministry of Home Affairs and security agencies during the election, UNDP supported the ECN to establish a Joint Electoral Operations Centre (JEOC) at ECN headquarters in Kathmandu. The centre served a dual purpose of analysing sensitive information and managing potential crises. It also consolidated information collected from different sources across all five development regions of Nepal before, during and after elections giving ECN 24/7 situational awareness. The JEOC was headed by the joint secretary (administration) of the Election Commission and a team comprising of senior officers from the Ministry of Home Affairs and all four security agencies. It became the nodal point for crisis management. The team assessed and analysed information received from all 75 districts and deterred possible threats. The centre, with the support from GIS unit, helped to solve problems in the districts.

Call Centre

The anxiety was evident in her voice when Krishna Maya from Charpane, Jhapa called to speak with one of the officials at the Call Centre of the ECN. She frantically explained that around 80 women of community were not able to find their names on the ward's registered voters list, despite having enrolled. Mamata Shrestha, the official who received the call, took her details and asked for the numbers on the individual registration receipts. Maya gave her the numbers and soon the problem was resolved. Tika Ram Oli of Pokhara phoned in with a similar concern. He gave his registration number and learnt that his name was among registered voters of another ward where his old house was situated. UNDP helped the ECN in establishing the call centre at ECN headquarters to address voters' queries related to 2013 CA elections. The centre had a toll free number with five telephones for easy accessibility to the general public. During the peak election period, from November 14 to 24, the call centre took a total of 2,354 calls, 1,200 of which were related to voter registration and voter rolls. The ECN officials were trained on election laws and processes so that they could address the callers' concerns. When in doubt, officials handling the calls either referred to other colleagues or held a conference call with their immediate supervisors. Mr. Maheshwor Neupane, Joint Secretary of ECN says that the establishment of the call centre proved very useful during the CA Elections. Ms. Mamata Shrestha, official at ECN feels that they were able to address concerns of voters to a large extent. The centre will continue to provide service even beyond elections.

9. Future Work Plan or Priorities for 2014

- Continued technical and on-site advisory support: UNDP will continue providing technical and advisory assistance to the ECN at its Headquarters and regional/district offices for institutional strengthening and professional development. Activities will be planned based on lessons learned in 2013.
- Continuous strengthening of the voter registration system: software will be developed for continuous voter registration and series of trainings will be conducted to enhance the capacity of ECN for operationalization of the software. Technical assistance will be provided to give continuity to voter registration programme and in addressing inaccuracies in the voters' lists.
- Review of the ECN's strategic plan: The ESP will be assisting the Election Commission of Nepal (ECN) in reviewing its current strategic plan (2009-2013) and drafting a new one for a period covering 2013-2017.
- Election Operational Support for Local Election: Required technical and operational assistance will be provided to ECN in preparation for local elections likely to be held in 2014. Based on the learning of 2013 CA elections, the ESP will identify areas that require strengthening so that the Commission is well equipped in planning and conducting future elections.
- Training and capacity building: This is one of the prime areas of focus of the ESP in 2014. The project will assist ECN in revising its capacity building strategy and help in its implementation. BRIDGE and other professional trainings will be held to address ECN requirements and needs.
- South-South Cooperation: In order to strengthen partnership of Election Management Bodies of the Region, the ESP will provide assistance to the ECN in organizing SAARC level workshop in 2014.

10. Risk and Issue Logs

10.1 Risk Log Matrix

#	Description	Category (financial, political, operational, organizational, environmental, regulatory, security, strategic, other)	Likelihood of risk (scale of 1 to 5 with 5 being the most likely) A	Impact (scale of 1 to 5 with 5 being the highest impact) B	Risk factor (A x B)	Mitigation measures if risk occurs	Date risk is identified	Last Updated	Status
1	Some of the Madesh based political parties are opposing supreme court's decision of making citizenship certificate mandatory for getting registered on voters list	Political	4	4	16	The ESP will provide required technical assistance to the ECN as per the Government's decision	January 2013	November 2013	Voters who could provide other source of identifications were also registered on the voter roll so that they could exercise their voting rights
2	Uncertainty of CA elections	Political	3	3	9	Project will continue implementing non-election work plan and regularly brief donors about the electoral context	May 2013	December 2013	CA election took place in November 2013

3	On-going rejection by opposition political parties and alliances of the 11 point deal, formation of IEC & HLPC and elections	Political	4	4	16	UN and Bilateral Organizations to encourage all parties not to disrupt elections and to join the process	September 2013	December 2013	The CA elections was boycotted by alliance of 11 parties
4	CPN (Maoists) and other fringe parties alleging poll-rigging and denying the results of 2013 CA elections	Political	3	3	9	The ESP will provide required technical assistance to the ECN in consultation with PEB members	November 2013	December 2013	The Election results were accepted by all the political parties, that resulted in formation of the government and the second CA

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10.2 Issue Log Matrix

#	Type	Date Identified	Description and Comments	Resolution measures recommended	Status of the issue	Status Change Date
	Operational	August	From the past experiences of ESP it was noticed that the Election Commission is resistant in accepting assistance in the areas of procurement and financial management. But in the review of ESP Phase I, these areas were identified as priority areas for institutional strengthening	The ESP in consultation with ECN will hire national advisors to work with ECN officials in charge of procurement and financial management. The procurement advisor will also work closely with the Commission to implement recommendations made in the procurement assessment conducted in 2012.	The ESP provided several trainings to the ECN in procurement and financial management in 2012 and 2013 is included in ESP 2014 AWP	December 2013

Operational	September			December 2013
	On average invalid votes in 2013 CA elections were 4.96 under FPTP electoral system and 3.2 percent under PR system. This percentage is smaller when compared to the 2008 CA elections, and on average (3 to 4 percentage) as per international standards. However, there are some constituencies where the percentage of invalid votes is higher and requires targeted voter and electoral education.	The ESP will provide technical assistance to the Election Commission in reviewing its current voter education strategy and developing programmes to reach out to communities for electoral education with a focus on constituencies where there were higher numbers of invalid votes.	The ESP supported the ECN in planning and developing public outreach and voter education campaigns using print, electronic and social media. Street dramas were conducted in 240 constituencies with adaptation to local context. These comprehensive awareness campaigns contributed to a decrease in invalid votes and increased voters' turnout of 79.9% of registered voters (52% women).	

| Operational | August | There were some errors identified on the voters' rolls used by the ECN in 2013 CA elections. The final voters' rolls have not yet been cleaned\audited. In addition, the voters' rolls need to be updated on a regular basis to register new and missed voters and remove names of voters who have passed away. | The ESP will work in close collaboration with the ECN to initiate continuous voter registration nationwide and also clear the voters list through claims and objection and data verification and deduplication | After completing the claims and objection process, voters roll was finalized and used in 2013 CA elections | December 2013 |
| Operational | November | The ECN endorsed Gender and Social Inclusion Policy in 2013. It took more than two years consistent lobby by the ESP to endorse the policy. Therefore, there is a risk that the Commission may not prioritize the implementation of Policy. | ESP will continuously follow-up with ECN and also provide technical assistance in preparing plans and in implementation the Policy. The development partners and civil society organizations could also lobby with the ECN to assert the implementation of Policy. | Activities to assist the ECN in implementation of Gender and Social Inclusion Policy are incorporated in 2014 AWP. | December 2013 |

ANNEX 1: Trainings

List of UNDP/ESP Supported events with No. of participants and Locations

S. N.	Name of the trainings	Masters	Regional	District	Local	Total Participants	UNDP/ESP Support		IFES	Support		ECN	Support
							Master	Regional	Master	Regional	District	District	Local
1	Voter's Education Training	29	300	1,645	29,468	31,442	-	198	29	102	-	1,645	29,468
2	Logistics & Accounts Management Training	23	300	680	-	1,003	-	198	23	102	-	680	-
3	Election Management Training for Chief Returning Officers and Returning Officers	22	240	-	-	262	-	103	22	137	-	-	-
4	Polling and counting Training	30	480	51,438	225,000	276,948	30	208	-	272	-	51,438	225,000

S.N.	Activity												
5	Security Management Training for Election	50	-	-	-	50	50	-	-	-	-	-	-
6	Election Observation	130	-	-	-	130	130	-	-	-	-	-	-
7	Election and Communication Training	19	148	2,500	-	2,667	19	148	-	-	2,500	-	-
8	Election & Communication training program for Radio Broadcasters' Forum	47	-	-	-	47	47	-	-	-	-	-	-
	Total	350	1,468	56,263	254,468	312,549	276	855	74	613	2,500	53,763	254,468

Summary

1 The total manpower trained for 2013 Constitution Assembly Election were 312,549 of which 350 (0.11 %) were Masters, 1,468 (0.47 %) were regional, 56,263 (18.42 %) were district and 81.42 % were locals.

2 UNDP/ESP supported 10 events of Masters training and 34 events of regional level trainings which produces a total of 1,131 trained human resources in election purpose

3   IFES supported 3 events of Masters training and about 20 events of regional level trainings which produces a total of 687 trained human resources in election purpose. IFES also supported UNDP/ESP initiated Election and Communication training in districts and trained 2,500 Journalist.

4   ECN was engaged in all masters and regional level events and reached to districts and local levels.

ANNEX 2: Financial Statement

Activities	Total Approved Budget 2013 (USD)	Expenditure Incurred in 2013 (USD)
Output 1. Strengthened capacity of the ECN to function as a permanent, independent, credible and professional institution of governance.		
Activity 1.1: Support with Strategic Planning	88,912.00	81,084.91
Activity 1.2: Support with Professional Development and Cooperation	28,623.00	21,730.10
Activity 1.3: Support with Geographic Information and Electoral Mapping	122,515.00	102,667.95
Activity 1.4: Support with Creation and Display of New Voter Register	1,146,032.00	676,436.55
Sub Total	1,386,082	881,919.51
Output 2. Election cycle conducted in an effective, sustainable, and credible manner.		
Activity 2.1: Support with Procedures and Training	251,878	228,178.53
Activity 2.2: Support with Operations and Logistics	5,022,379.00	5,480,698.61
Activity 2.3: Support with Electoral Dispute Resolution	46,010.00	45,709.04
Activity 2.4: Support with Electoral Security	8,025	8,046.23
Sub Total	5,328,292	5,762,632.41

Output 3. Increased democratic participation in the next cycle of elections, particularly for under-represented and disadvantaged segments of the Nepali society.		
Activity 3.1: Support with Public Outreach, Civic and Voter Education	760,742.00	623,208.31
Activity 3.2: Support with Electoral Education and Information Center(s)	80,784.00	65,610.00
Activity 3.3: Support with External Relations	171,200.00	80,523.38
Activity 3.4: Gender social inclusion and vulnerable groups	175,537.00	144,103.30
Sub Total	**1,188,263.00**	**913,444.99**
Output 4. Programme management and quality support		
4.1 Monitoring & Evaluation	114,012.00	54,927.46
Activity 4.2 UNDP Project Set up, Running Costs	241,100.00	317,101.44
Deprecation of Fixed Assets		14,752.59
Sub Total	**355,112.00**	**386,781.49**
Total	8,257,749.00	7,944,778.40

ANNEX 3: Progress against indicators

OUTCOMES, OUTPUTS AND ACTIVITY RESULTS	INDICATORS	BASELINE	2013 ANNUAL TARGET	SOURCE OF VERIFICATION	REMARKS ON PROGRESS
UNDAF Outcome and the CP Output	% of women and minority candidates in national and local elections	33% of women candidates in CA Elections 2008	40% women in the CA Elections 2013	ECN Reports	35.39 % of women candidates in CA Elections 2013
UNDAF Outcome (2013-2017) institutions, systems and processes of	% of eligible voters (men & women) who turn out in national and local elections	62.49 % of total registered voters voted in CA Elections 2008	67% in both national and local elections	ECN Reports	79.9% of total registered voted in CA Elections 2013
democratic governance are more accountable, effective, efficient and inclusive	% of men and women eligible to vote who are registered by ECN with photographs and biometric profiling.	Approximately 66% of in-country citizens of 16 years and above registered in 2012	70% of men and women registered (at least 50% of those registered are women)	ECN Reports	75% of in-country citizens of 16 years and above are registered in the voters list
Expected Country Programme (CP) Output (2013-2017) Election Commission	% of invalid ballots on national elections and local elections	In 2008 CA Elections, the invalid vote was 5.15% and 3.66% under the FPTP and PR respectively	Less than 3%	ECN Reports	In 2013 CA Elections, the invalid vote was 4.96% and 3.20% under the FPTP and PR respectively
has the capacity to conduct credible, inclusive and transparent elections	Number of citizens sensitized on electoral system and processes through EEIC	More than 6,000 as of December 2012	30000 citizens (10000 by 2013)	ECN Reports	11,495 citizens (44% female, 56% male) have visited the EEIC until December 2013

| Output 1: Strengthened capacity of the ECN to function as a permanent, independent, credible and professional institution of governance | National and local elections are organized and held in a
a) timely (postponements),
b) effective (observer reports) and
c) credible manner (number of complaints) | a) 2008 elections were held after two postponements,

b) Many national and international observer reports (EU EOM, Carter Center, International Crisis Group, DEAN, ANFREL, NEOC et al) stated that 2008 elections were by and large effective

c) 64 cases of electoral related violence were filed at ECN. ECN's decision- 'voting annulled' for 12 cases and 'no action required' for 52 cases. | CA elections are organized in a timely, effective and credible manner | ECN reports / Observer reports | a) 2013 CA Elections was held in a timely manner without postponement

b) Preliminary and final reports o national and international observers (*there were 3 international and 54 national organizations involved in election observation*), particularly EU, Carter Center, ANFREL etc state that the election was held in a free, fair, and credible manner

c) Preliminary reports suggest reduced number of electoral related violence incidents |

% of ECN staff that indicate a strengthened capacity of the ECN through trainings provided by ESP, measured through staff surveys on:- Staff capacity development and learning	• 100% of surveyed ECN staff reported that the trainings supported by ESP enhanced their capacity to fulfill their responsibilities better; • 83% staff reported enhanced planning, coordination and communication skills • 92 % of staff reported that they transferred their skills gained in the trainings to other colleagues • 89 % of staff reported that these trainings encouraged them to continue working with ECN • 94 % of staff reported that they recommend similar trainings to other colleagues of ECN • 85 % of staff reported that the trainings would be useful beyond ECN and elections	2013 staff survey will give baseline data about staff perception of ECN institutional and individual capacity improvement	ECN Staff survey conducted by ESP	N/A as baseline data was collected in 2013

1.1 Support with Strategic Planning					
Envisaged Result: A multi-year strategic plan, making a special emphasis on women, minorities and other vulnerable groups' inclusion, is produced, adopted and implemented and guides the Election Commission of Nepal (ECN) in the full attainment of its mission, vision, goals and objectives	A new or revised ECN Strategic Plan is developed and implemented, including recommendations and lessons learnt from the 2009-2013 Plan	ECN existing strategic plan is from 2009-2013	Revision of the Strategic Plan commenced; gaps and goals for the next 5 years in the process of being identified	ECN report	ESP is providing technical support in the preparation of the new ECN Strategic Plan for 2014-2018. The new plan will be prepared in 2014

1.2 Support with Professional Development and Cooperation					
Envisaged Result: The professional skills of the election officials (as well as civil society, political parties and other stakeholders in the electoral process) at the various levels are enhanced and a pool of certified, skilled electoral trainers established and retained at the ECN.	Number of ECN staff and other stakeholders trained on: • Electoral processes • BRIDGE • 'Train the Facilitator' (TtF) certified (semi/full/accrediting) • non-electoral trainings (procurement, financial management, and other), as well as number of professional exchange visits / study tours	2012: • A total of 1148 people trained on BRIDGE (70% ECN staff, 30% other stakeholders; 81% male, 19% female) • 22 accredited BRIDGE facilitators trained in Nepal (8 female) • 29 ECN staff trained on procurement management	• Around 500 ECN staff and other stakeholders to be trained - at least 33% women • Training on 7 BRIDGE Modules • One Ttf with 20 participants • Around 30 ECN staff to be trained in non-electoral trainings	Training & Capacity Building Specialist Reports	• 1,131 ECN staff trained in seven thematic areas, who ultimately trained more than 250,000 polling officials deployed during elections • 2 BRIDGE training programs on Voter Registration and Electoral Management and Administration were provided to media representatives and newly appointed ECN staff. BRIDGE training programs were put on hold after the announcement of November CA Elections. • No Tft was conducted in 2013 because priority was given to election related trainings • 30 ECN staff from different departments trained on Financial Administration Management

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| Envisaged Result: ECN takes steps towards ensuring retention of their staff and the institutional memory through the development and implementation of a plan to retain staff and develop hand over and archiving modalities. | % of staff who received job description/TOR when they joined ECN

% of staff who received orientation on their roles and responsibilities when they joined ECN

% of staff who perceive that the orientation was adequate to start their job responsibilities

% of staff who received handover notes from their predecessors | 48 % of staff received job description/TOR when they joined ECN

33% of staff received orientation on their roles and responsibilities when they joined ECN

18 % of those staff perceive that the orientation was adequate to start their job responsibilities

50 % of staff received handover notes from their prececesso | Increased % | Staff retention and institutional memory measured through ECN staff survey | This will be reported from 2014 onwards |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|

1.3 Support with Geographic Information and Electoral Mapping Systems				
Envisaged Result: Administration of the electoral process made more efficient and transparent through the provision of a Geographic Information System (GIS) based electoral mapping suitable to the needs and environment in which it is used and maintained				
All collected polling location data is digitalized in one database, accessible at district level	No integrated data base system in place	All polling location data 100% integrated in one seamless (master) database	Input / report from National GIS Officer	Developed a google earth based polling location mapping tool to locate more than 10,000 polling locations across the country. The system was implemented at the Joint Election Operation Centre (JEOC), and Media and Elections Observation Centre.
% of polling stations identified and mapped	No GIS mapping of polling stations existed in 2008 elections	GPS locations of all polling stations (9,824) 100% identified and mapped	Input / report from National GIS Officer	GPS locations of all polling stations (more than 10,000) identified and mapped
Number and types of maps used by ECN in electoral planning and administration	2012: Thematic maps on CA Election results, invalid voting, Constituency distribution mapping, gender, voter registration and Preliminary census and citizen mapping produced and widely disseminated among electoral stakeholders & development partners	At least 5 different series* of thematic types of national, regional, districts (75) and constituencies (expected 240) updated maps produced. (* electoral violence, voter registration, polling location, gender, election results, turnout, etc.)	Input / report from National GIS Officer	Electoral Atlas and maps of 75 districts showing all 240 constituencies were produced through the GIS unit.

Indicator	Baseline 2012	Target 2013	Means of Verification	Comments
No. of ECN staff, at HQ and in the districts, trained on use of GIS/GPS/Google Earth tools (disaggregated by gender)	2012: More than 300 ECN officials including DEOs trained	2013: At least 75 ECN officials trained	Input / report from National GIS Officer CB Specialist	Training for at least 75 ECN officials could not be held due to priority being given to election related trainings in 2013
1.4 : Support with Creation and Display of New Voter Register				
Envisaged Result: A completely new, accurate voters' list with photographs containing some 15 million voter records is produced and displayed prior to the election, allowing for smooth and credible electoral process. A Claims and Objection Process carried out	2012: Voters List updated and displayed in April 2012 for the first time	Claims and Objection process at least once before elections	ECN reports	The new biometric voters list underwent claims and objection in August 2013
% of public who are aware of the Claims and Objection Process	41% of registered respondents were aware of the Claims and Objection Process	Increased %	Public Knowledge and Opinion Survey	N/A as baseline data was collected in 2013

Indicator	Value	Target	Data Source	Notes
% of public who checked their information during the Claims and Objection Process	63% of those aware of the process checked their information in the voters list	Increased %	Public Knowledge and Opinion Survey	N/A as baseline data was collected in 2013
% of public who have confidence on the accuracy and completeness of the voters list in their area	73% of the public reported that they are confident about the accuracy and completeness of the voters list	Increased %	Public Knowledge and Opinion Survey	N/A as baseline data was collected in 2013
% of public who show or perceive an increased knowledge and awareness on Voters Registration process	17 % of public are aware of the minimum age to register (16 years) in the voter registration with photograph 94 % of public are aware of the documents they need to bring along to register in the voters list	Increased %	Public Knowledge and Opinion Survey	N/A as baseline data was collected in 2013

Output 2: Elections Cycle conducted in an effective, sustainable and credible manner	Detailed election administrative procedures and operational plans in place before the elections	2012: ESP supported ECN in preparing a draft operational plan.	Operational plan in place well in advance of the elections	ECN reports / input from ESP management	For the CA Elections 2013, ECN prepared operational plans under each of its department.
	a. Ratio of direct international funding for ECN decreased b. Number of International Advisors needed to assist the ECN decreased	a. 2008 CA Elections: Out the total expenditure, Nepal Peace Trust Fund (Government of Nepal and foreign assistance, grants and donations) contributed 45.07%, Government of Nepal contributed 36.77% and 18.16% were from foreign assistance. b. 2008 CA Elections: UNMIN provided 9 international advisors at ECN HQ and one international advisor from UNMIN HQ; 2 international advisors in each of the development regions; and 70 international district advisors in 70 districts.	a. Further decrease in ratio international vs national funding for ECN b. Further reduced international advisors compared to the previous elections	ECN Reports	a. 2013 CA Elections: To be confirmed b. 2013 CA Elections: ESP provided technical assistance to the ECN in elections preparations through 10 international and 5 national advisors based at the HQ and each of the 5 regional offices.

Output	Indicator	Baseline	Target	Means of Verification	Progress
2.1: Support with Procedures and Training					
Envisaged Result: Clear electoral procedures resulting in a smooth electoral process, well informed electorate, and trained ECN staff.	Number of ECN officials & election stakeholders trained in different electoral procedures	2008 Elections: ECN mobilized 125,184 staff members and 108,806 volunteers	To be defined as per ECN's plan	ECN Reports	1,131 ECN staff trained in seven thematic areas, who ultimately trained more than 250,000 polling officials deployed during elections
	Increased effort for representation of women and disadvantaged groups among those recruited and trained during election period is observed	2008 elections: Provision for 50% but data not available	ECN officials can report their initiatives; gender disaggregated data is maintained for recruitment/trainings	ECN Report / Gender Specialist Report	More than 50% of elections observers were women. 120 polling centers were fully run by women polling officers.
2.2: Support with Election Operations and Logistics					
Envisaged Result: Timely development of operational plans and operational plans and concepts, smooth conduct of election operations, as well as provision, transportation and storage of all election materials	Operational plan defining all aspects of election operations developed prior to elections	2012: ESP supported ECN in preparing a draft operational plan.	2013: Operational plan finalized by ECN well in advance of the elections	ECN reports /Election Operational and Logistics officer	Operational plans developed for each department of the ECN for the CA Elections 2013

Number of sensitive and non-sensitive election materials distributed	2008 elections: 60,000 ballot boxes, more than 41 million ballot papers and 70,000 packets of Indelible Ink distributed	To be defined by ECN	ECN reports /Election Operational and Logistics officer	ESP facilitated procurement of more than 25 sensitive and non-sensitive materials: 485 metric tons of papers for printing a total of 14,952,000 ballots for the FPTP and an equal number for the PR, cutting and numbering machines 20,000 bags for polling and returning officers and various hardware and software supporting election administration.
# of polling stations opened on time and operated throughout the polling day	2008 Elections: 8440 out of 9,824 polling locations started polling on time (7:00 hrs as provisioned by CA Election Law) (Source: DEAN Report)	All polling locations opened on time (8:00 hrs) throughout the polling day	Observer reports / ECN reports/ Election Operational and Logistics officer	Almost all the polling stations opened on time (between 0700 to 0730), onl with a few exceptions (exact numbe to be defined)
# of staff deployed in polling stations (with proportionate representation of women and disadvantaged groups)	2008 Elections: ECN mobilized 125,184 staff members and 108,806 volunteers	To be defined by ECN	Observer reports / ECN reports / ESP management / Election Operational and Logistics officer	More than 250,000 staff were deployed in the polling stations

		2008 elections: To be confirmed	higher % of election procurement (cost-wise) handled by ECN	ECN election report / ESP reports/ reports from other donors supporting election procurement	To be confirmed
	% of election procurement done by ECN (cost-wise) - in comparison to all remaining procurement done by international organization)				
2.3 Support with Electoral Dispute Resolution					
Result: Enhanced Electoral Dispute Resolution (EDR) skills acquired by the ECN and the judiciary, which lead to a tangible decrease in the number of unresolved disputes in future elections, thus enhancing stakeholders' confidence in elections	Electoral Dispute Resolution System established and implemented	2012: ESP supported ECN to review and assess Nepal's legal framework for electoral dispute resolution and submitted a draft report to ECN.	2013: ESP to work closely with ECN in implementing the recommendations made in the assessment	ECN Reports/ESP Management	In 2013 elections, the same EDR mechanism remained in place as the 2008 CA election

2.4 Support with Electoral Security

Envisaged Result	Indicator	Baseline	Activity	Means of Verification	Progress
Peaceful elections with any isolated incidents contained using carefully designed electoral violence mitigation strategies	Electoral Violence Mitigation Strategy in place	No proper electoral violence mitigation strategy in place	Development and implementation of Electoral Mitigation Strategy and planning	ECN reports / ESP management	No progress
	Establishment of Joint Election Coordination Mechanism between ECN, MoHA, Security Agencies to coordinate and improve electoral security response	No joint electoral security coordination mechanism in place	Support to physical establishment and operationalization of the Joint Election Coordination Mechanism at central and regional (5) ECN premises	ECN reports / ESP management	Establishment of Joint Election Operation Center (JEOC) that was a hub for coordination with security agencies and political parties. Representatives from security agencies were present at JEOC on election day.
	Risk management tool developed, implemented and instrumental covering all districts	NA	Risk management tool developed	ECN reports / ESP management	Risk management tool yet to be developed

	Indicator	Baseline (2008)	Target	Means of Verification	Achievement
Output 3: Increased democratic participation in the next cycle of elections, particularly for under-represented and disadvantaged segments of the Nepali society	voting turnout % of people who take part in the elections	2008 elections: 62% turnout	67% voting turnout	ECN reports / Observer reports	A historic turnout of 79.9 % in CA Elections 2013
	% of women, youth (18-39), senior (60+) and different under-represented and disadvantaged groups participating in the elections / electoral events	2008 elections: Provision for 50% but data not available	Gender disaggregated data is maintained for recruitment/trainings	ECN Reports	Over 52% of voters were women; Over 50% of election volunteers were women, women development officers of all districts are included in the district level election education coordination committees and women's participation in the similar coordination committee at local level was also ensured. 120 polling centers were run fully by women polling officers.
3.1 Support with Public Outreach, Civic and Voter Education					
Envisaged Result: Voters well-informed about electoral processes resulting in an increased voter turnout, especially by under-represented groups and disadvantaged segments of the Nepali society.	% of public who show or perceive an increased knowledge and awareness on Civic Education (on elections and electoral processes)	47 % of public are aware of the electoral system followed in the CA Elections 2013, 14 % of public are aware of the number of constituencies under the FPTP system;	Increased %	Public Knowledge Opinion Survey	N/A as baseline data was collected in 2013

11 % of public are aware of the number of seats allocated under the PR system ; 30 % of public who are aware of the Electoral Management Body (EMB) in Nepal]			
% of public who show or perceive an increased knowledge and awareness on Voters Education	Increased %		N/A as baseline data was collected in 2013
Majority of public are aware of 4 criteria to be eligible to vote in elections (viz. *citizenship certificate- 98%, registered in voters list- 91%, permanent residency- 89%, completed 18 years- 86%)* ; 58% are aware that people should be mentally sound; and only 27% are aware of the Election Offense and Punishment Act		Public Knowledge Opinion Survey	

In terms of invalid votes, respondents reported the following should not be done: stamp outside the box (75%); stamp in between two symbols (45%); stamp in more than one symbol in one ballot paper (43%); stamp in multiple boxes (32%); use thumb prints or other signs (37%); use ballot paper without polling officer's signature (12%); stamp in blurred manner (8%).

93 % of public who are aware of the place where one should go to vote;

95 % of public are aware of the document we need to bring along to cast vote;

16% of public are aware of the Electronic Voting Machine (EVM)

% of public's awareness of ECN's Civic and Voter Education activities and programs	68 % of public who are aware of the voter education programs and materials produced by the ECN	Increased %	Public Knowledge Opinion Survey
	63% of public have seen/heard/read voter education programs and materials in local languages		
	Less than 25% of public aware of specific VE programs of ECN		
	50 % of public who are aware of the social mobilisers in their community		
	43 % of public who are aware of social mobilisers mentioned that social mobilisers conducted voter education activities in their community		

3.2: Support with Electoral Education and Information Center				
Envisaged Result:				
# of stakeholders who visit the EEIC (disaggregated by gender, type of stakeholders)	2012: 6172 visitors (45% female) have visited the center and taken part in its educational program.	10,000 visitors	EEIC report	11,495 people (44% female, 56% male) have visited the EEIC and taken part in its 90-minute educational program. Of these, 263 groups were from private schools, 18 from community schools and 58 other groups including NGOs, INGOs, political parties, academician et al.
% of surveyed visitors who report improved knowledge and awareness on democratic and electoral system	2012: More than 70% of surveyed visitors reported improved knowledge and awareness on electoral system	70% of surveyed visitors report improved knowledge and awareness	EEIC report/EEIC Visitor Evaluation	More than 75 % of surveyed visitors report improved knowledge and awareness on democratic and electoral issues
% of public who are aware of EEIC and its programs	14% of public aware of EEIC and its programs	Increased %	Public Opinion Survey	N/A as baseline data was collected in 2013
% of ECN's financial contribution in EEIC's operational cost	2012: No contribution	70% contribution	ESP Financial and Annual Report	More than 80% of EEIC's operational costs are borne by ECN

3.3: Support with External Relations		2012: Needs to be verified with ECN	As per ECN's plans	ECN Reports/EEIC Coordinator	To be confirmed
Envisaged Result: Well informed and engaged civil society and political contestants facilitate increased participation and independent observation of elections by civil society groups and party agents, which contributes to a transparent electoral process.	# of stakeholders meetings that take place between ECN and external stakeholders				
	# of registered observers – national and international	2008 elections: 61,854 local observers from 148 institutions and 783 international observers from 31 institutions were accredited by the ECN.	Compared to 2008: higher number of domestic observers; at least a similar number of international observers	ECN Reports/EEIC Coordinator	A total of 249 observers from 3 international institutions, and 30,667 observers from 46 national level institutions observed the election.

3.4: Support with Gender, Social Inclusion and Vulnerable Groups				
Envisaged Result: Mainstreaming of policies and mechanisms for inclusion of women and other minorities, marginalized and vulnerable groups which include Madhesis, Dalits, Janjatis, elderly, youth, and others.	Revised policies, acts and strategies of Election Commission are more progressive with regards to GE/SI components	Phase I: No special chapter on GE/SI in the previous strategies. Gender policy yet to be endorsed	Gender and Social Inclusion Policy endorsed by ECN; a G/SI Action Plan developed and implementation started	ESP Gender reports	Gender and Social Inclusion Policy endorsed by the ECN. The different policies and guidelines prepared and adopted by the Election Commission have integrated gender and social inclusion concerns.
	Number and type of GE/SI trainings for the ECN supported by ESP	2012: 5 BRIDGE trainings on Gender and Elections (4) and Gender and Social Inclusion (1)	Basic orientation on the entry points for GE/SI mainstreaming; workshop to finalize the Gender Checklists ; sensitization on Gender and Inclusion issues to media (BRIDGE); Observer groups are oriented on Gender Checklists	ESP Gender reports	No training on GE/SI and BRIDGE and Gender in 2013 after the announcement of elections.

Number of ECN staff & other stakeholders trained on gender and inclusion issues	105 ECN staff and other stakeholders trained on gender and inclusion issues	Representatives from different sections of ECN get orientation on entry points for GE/SI mainstreaming in electoral processes and finalise the gender checklists for various sections	ESP Gender reports	No training on GE/SI and BRIDGE and Gender in 2013 after the announcement of elections.
% of ECN staff who show or perceive an increased awareness and more GE/SI sensitive action within the ECN	Less than 25% of staff who received gender training could report clearly how gender training has been useful in their job responsibilities Less than 25% staff who received gender training could report how gender training has been influential in changing their perception personally	Increased %	ECN Staff survey	N/A as baseline data was collected in 2013

| # of public outreach, civic and voter education material targeting women and marginalized groups | Previous reports (Carter Center, IDEA, Gender Mapping) point out gaps in targeting women and marginalized groups | Most disadvantaged community groups are reached through 4,000 community groups and ward citizen forum | ESP Gender reports | Radio and TV PSAs were developed in 29 languages targeting different communities including marginalized groups; materials were developed targeting women and physically challenged group. Street drama were conducted in 240 constituencies customized to local culture |
| # of GE/SI knowledge products produced | Phase I: Gender Mapping Study completed | Study on gender based electoral and political violence completed | ESP Gender reports | No knowledge products developed this year |

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ANNEX 4: Response to Donors' Comments

Topic Annual Progress Report	Comment from DFID	Response from UNDP ESP
Voters Identification Card (Pg 8)	We had understood that this was done by the ECN themselves as we had always strongly advised not do it till the last minute due to multiple risks, but the ECN went ahead with their decision. Would be very helpful for a clarification as to when the programme decided to support this.	The ECN requested the ESP for printing of the voters' identification cards. Due to high risks associated with it, in consultation with the development partners and UNDP Senior Management, the Project declined this request. Following which, the ECN went ahead with printing on its own. However, after receiving a formal request from the ECN for procurement of plastic pouches for identification cards and taking into consideration the importance of the pouches for durability of cards, in consultation with development partners (Attachment 1), the Project decided to extend the support.
ECN took action against some media houses for the breach of election code of conduct (Pg 15)	Would you please give examples of the action that ECN took against the media houses as well as how many such actions were taken? And what were the results of such actions against the media houses? Did they improve anything?	Action was taken against one media house. Two days before elections the ECN sent a letter to the Government of Nepal asking the media house to stop airing news till Election day. This was a sovereign decision of the ECN. The ESP was not involved in the decision.
This is one of the prime areas of focus of the ESP in 2014. The project will assist ECN in revising its capacity building strategy and help in its implementation. BRIDGE	When this will be completed. This training is on-going ever since the first phase of the project started or even before. IFES and IDEA had been delivering it for quite some time. Is there an exit plan from this training? Or a timeline from when the ECN will be capable of creating a pool of trainers and the project could exit?	The Project will be supporting the ECN in finalizing its capacity building strategy with milestones that will be the basis to measure ECN's progress on capacity building. The project is supporting ECN in creating a pool of trainers through the BRIDGE 'Train of the Facilitators

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and other professional trainings will be held to address ECN requirements and needs.	(TtF)' so far 1 ECN staff has been accredited facilitator, 21 stakeholders fully accredited and 43 semi accredited. It is expected that this number will increase with the coming trainings. These trainings of facilitators are part of the Project exit strategy in this particular area. The project in coordination with ECN, IDEA and IFES is conducting these trainings. As decided in the PEB meeting held on 4 April 2013, UNDP will conduct the mid-term review of the ESP in 2015.
Software for continuous voter registration	Looks this is being delayed for some time. Would you please provide indicative time by when in 2014, this will be operationalized?
	Due to the Constituent Assembly elections in 2013, the ECN was not able to provide adequate time for development of software for continuous voter registration. However, it's one of the prime areas of focus in 2014 and is anticipated to be operationalized by the end of this year.