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ANNUAL PROGRESS REPORT 2015



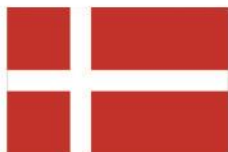
THE ELECTORAL SUPPORT PROJECT (ESP) PHASE II :
INSTITUTIONAL STRENGTHENING AND
PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT SUPPORT FOR THE
ELECTION COMMISSION OF NEPAL



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About the Project	Geographic coverage of the project	
Project Title: Institutional Strengthening and Professional Development Support for the Election Commission of Nepal - Phase II Award ID: 00049636 Web link: www.np.undp.org	National level coverage (Yes/No): Yes Number of Regions covered: Five Number of Districts Covered: 75	
Strategic Results		
UNDP Strategic Plan Outcome: Citizen expectations for voice, development, the rule of law and accountability are met by stronger systems of democratic governance		
UNDP Strategic Plan Output: parliaments, constitution making bodies and electoral institutions enabled to perform core functions for improved accountability, participation and representation , including for peaceful transitions		
UNDAF Outcome: Institutions, systems and processes of democratic governance are more accountable, effective, efficient and inclusive		
UNDAF/CPAP Output: Election Commission [of Nepal] has the capacity to conduct credible, inclusive and transparent elections at national, provincial, and local levels		
Project Duration (day/month/year)	Implementing Partner(s)	Implementation Modality
Start Date: 12 January 2012 End Date: 12 January 2017	1. Election Commission of Nepal	DIM
Project Budget (US\$)		
Total Project Budget:	US\$ 24,630,000	
Total Project Expenditure till 2015:	US\$ 16,569,155	
Budget 2015:	US\$ 2,500,000	
Expenditure 2015 (Indicative only):	US \$ 2,295,451	
Budget Utilization % (2015)	92	

Signature: _____

Name: Andres Del Castillo
Project Manager

Date: 27 May 2016

Signature: _____

Name: Renaud Meyer
Country Director

Date: 27 May 2016

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Abbreviation

ESP	:	Electoral Support Project
ECN	:	Election Commission of Nepal
EEIC	:	Electoral Education Information Centre
GIS	:	Geographical Information System
SAARC	:	South Asian Association Regional Cooperation
TtF	:	Train the Facilitators
BRIDGE	:	Building Resources in Democracy, Governance and Elections
RTotT	:	Regional level Training of Trainers
MToT	:	Master Training of Trainers
DEO	:	District Election Office
GESI	:	Gender and Social Inclusion
NDFN	:	National Deaf Federation of Nepal
TA	:	Technical Assistance
EMB	:	Election Management Body
CEC	:	Chief Election Commissioner
EC	:	European Commission
OSM	:	Open Street Mapping
DAO	:	District Administration Office
AAO	:	Area Administration Office
EDR	:	Election Dispute Resolution
HQ	:	Headquarter
CSO	:	Civil Society Organisation
VR	:	Voter Registration
IEC	:	Information, education and communication

1. Executive Summary

In the year 2015, one of the greatest set-back was the devastating earthquakes of April and May followed by hundreds of aftershocks. It had great implications on the Electoral Support Project (ESP)¹ planning and project implementation. The Election Commission of Nepal (ECN) buildings were severely damaged due to which the ESP had to be relocated outside the ECN Headquarters and ECN staff stationed at the Electoral Education and Information Centre. The voter registration data centre was also damaged.

Despite challenges, the ECN with technical assistance of ESP successfully registered additional 719,553 citizens of 16 years and above on biometric voters' roll accumulating a total registered citizens to 13.3 million (81% based on 2011 census). This voters' list was used to print out voters roll in 2015 by-election. The voter registration data was also useful to concerned ministries during relief and recovery process in the aftermath of 2015 devastating earthquakes to verify the list of eligible reconstruction beneficiaries.

The ESP continued providing advisory assistance to the ECN to implement its new Strategic Plan (2015-2019) and two-year action plan (2015-2016) particularly in the thematic areas of voter registration, public outreach, capacity building, gender and social inclusion, Geographic Information System etc. The ECN with technical support of ESP developed the 'Election Code of Conduct' in 2015. This Code of Conduct provides a guideline to the political parties, media, civil society and other stakeholders to be followed in the future elections. The ECN also established its Gender Unit and prepared a Gender Strategy where ESP provided technical assistance.

Technical assistance was also extended by ESP to the ECN to operationalize the Electoral Education and Information Centre (EEIC). The EEIC is the hub for ECN to plan and implement its public outreach and voter education campaigns. Additional 2,000 youth, first time voters and physically challenged citizens were sensitized on democracy and elections through EEIC in 2015, accumulating a total visitors to 22,000. Over 90% of the visitors who evaluated their visits rated it as educational². To increase democratic participation of voters residing in rural parts of the country, the ECN established two regional EEIC with ESP's technical support. These centres will carry out mobile outreach programmes in remote parts of Nepal targeting marginalized communities. Furthermore, with ESP's support, the ECN broadcasted electoral programmes on 74 local and community radio stations and 2 national television channels reaching out to citizens residing in different parts of the country that will ultimately enhance informed participation of citizens in the future elections.

A total of 2031 ECN officials and electoral stakeholders participated in 54 electoral thematic trainings and Building Resources in Democracy, Governance and Elections (BRIDGE) workshops. It includes trainings provided to Social Studies teachers from higher and secondary schools, including teachers with hearing disability. As shared by the trained teachers, these customized trainings enhanced their level of understanding on elections and confidence to impart the same knowledge to students.

¹ Electoral Support Project (ESP) is the short form of the project to be used in the report

² EEIC survey

In order to strengthen south–south and triangular cooperation the ECN, with support of ESP, conducted a 10-day South Asia Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) BRIDGE Train the Facilitators (TtF) workshop in Nepal. A total of 20 participants (6 female & 14 male) attended the TtF representing SAARC countries, with the objective of develop a pool of regional BRIDGE facilitators. The accredited national BRIDGE facilitators has now increased to 90 enhancing a pool of a national accredited and semi accrediting facilitators and reducing need to bring in international experts to impart the courses in the future.

The ESP also supported the ECN in developing several knowledge products on elections, for example the Manual on Civic and Voter Education for people with hearing disability, Gender and Social Inclusion Strategy and Policy, as well as, the Election Code of Conduct.

2. Background and Rationale

Despite devastating earthquakes of 2015 that took lives of 8,790 people (55% female), left 22,300 injured and destroyed nearly 500,000 buildings³, one of the key achievements of this year is the promulgation of the new constitution by the second Constituent Assembly (CA) elected in November 2013. The Constitution of Nepal was promulgated on 20 September, with an endorsement by 84 percent of the Constituent Assembly members. It transitioned Nepal from unitary system of governance into a federal system.

Five key results achieved in 2015

1. Additional 719,553 citizens of 16 years and above registered on biometric voters' roll accumulating a total registered citizens to 13.3 million (81% based on 2011 census).
2. Additional 2,000 youth, first time voters and physically challenged citizens sensitized on democracy and elections through EEIC, accumulating a total citizens sensitized through EEIC to 22,000. Over 90% of the visitors who evaluated their visits rated EEIC as educational. In order to sensitize rural marginalized communities on elections, the regional EEICs were established and mobile EEIC operationalized
3. A total of 2031 ECN officials and electoral stakeholders trained on elections including people with hearing disability and social studies teachers. These trained officials have been instrumental
4. The accredited national BRIDGE facilitators increased to 90 enhancing a pool of national trainers on elections and reducing a need to bring in international experts to impart the course in the future.
5. The Gender Unit established and the Gender Strategy Developed and implemented

³ Nepal Earthquake Post-Disaster Needs Assessment, June 2015

The constitution provisions number of progressive electoral rights. It has provisioned a mixed electoral system that secures 33% of women's representation in Federal and Provincial parliaments and 40% at local level.

Despite the fact that the constitution was promulgated with an overwhelming support of CA members, about half a dozen southern plains-based Madhesi political parties boycotted the constitution drafting process alleging that the major political parties have back-tracked from the provisions contained in the Interim Constitution, 2007. Their fundamental differences lay in the demarcation of the provincial boundaries, proportional inclusion in the state structures, electoral system and citizenship provisions.

The ECN with technical assistance of the ESP and other implementing partners continued its preparation for the future elections as envisioned in the new constitution. One of the greatest challenges within the ECN that continued in 2015 was vacant positions of two Commissioners and appointment of full phase Chief Election Commissioner (CEC). An officiating Chief Election Commissioner, Dr. Ayodhee Prasad Yadav name was recommended by constitutional council for the position of the CEC. However, after the promulgation of the new constitution, due to political differences, the hearing committee within the parliament could not be establish to endorse the recommendation, an essential step for the official appointment.

3. Project Summary and Objectives

UNDP assistance to the Election Commission of Nepal through the ESP is provided in line with UNDP mandate to work in 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- January 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 centred 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 centred 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. Programmatic Revisions

Taking into consideration the recommendation of the Mid-Term Review (MTR) of the ESP held in early 2015 and upon the request of the ECN, the extension of the ESP till January 2017 was endorsed by the Project Executive Board meeting held on 17 December 2015. A draft narrative of key priorities for the extended period was developed based on the recommendation of the MTR and in consultation with the ECN and development partners, which the project intends to follow in 2016.

5. Narrative of Key Results Achieved in 2015

5.1 Progress towards the UNDAF/CPAP Outcomes

Due to political impasse caused by adoption of the new Constitution followed by possible amendments to the Constitution of Nepal 2015, next local and national elections are expected to be delayed. Therefore reporting on *'percentage of eligible voters (men and women) who turn out in national/local elections'* would only be possible when the national or local elections are conducted. However, the by-election in one of the constituencies of now dissolved Constituent Assembly (CA) was held in 2015 with 72.9% of voters' turnout for which ESP provided Technical Assistance (TA) to the ECN in planning and conducting the election.

Nepal also achieved a milestone in terms of representation of women and minority groups across tiers of government: national, provincial and local. Provisions of the Constitution of Nepal 2015 require that women comprise of at least 33% of all members of federal and provincial parliaments representing political parties through a mixture of First-Past-the-Post and Proportional Representation (PR) electoral system. The Constitution also provides for inclusive candidacy of different ethnic groups based on the population under the PR electoral system. For the first time, it has a provision on the representation of people with disability in the federal parliament. At the local level, altogether, women will make up about 40% in the local assemblies.

The ESP continuous engagement with political parties, civil society, minority groups, National Women Commission, Dalit Commission, networks of women, CA members as well as the technical assistance provided to CA committees contributed to attainment of the results. In particular, ESP partnered with UN Women to raise women's voice in constitution writing process. Similarly, ESP TA provided to the ECN played an important role in introducing progressive constitutional provisions. The Strategic Plan (2015-2019) and Gender and Social

Inclusion Policy of ECN developed with TA of ESP in the form of expert advice/facilitation proved to be strong tools in advocating for inclusive provisions.

In the DoA, in addition to the UNDAF outcome there is the Expected Country Programme output. I would suggest to also include this outcome in order to keep the same level of detail as in the DoA and for ease of reference.

5.2 Progress on Project Outputs

Output 1

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

Support with Strategic Planning

With TA of ESP, the ECN Five Year Strategic Plan (2015-2019) and the Two-Year Action Plan (2015-2106) were developed and officially launched in English and Nepali versions in early 2015. The Strategic Plan provides clear guidance to the ECN in prioritizing areas of importance based on context, lessons learned and institutional requirements. The Project assisted the ECN in its implementation particularly in the areas of Gender and Social Inclusion, Public Outreach, Voter Registration, Geographic Information System, Professional Capacity Development, Electoral Dispute Resolution etc.



The ECN also organized three Regional and Central level Annual Review Meetings where officials from the 75 District Election Offices (DEOs) participated and adopted 11-point Declaration, which is in line with its Strategic Plan. The Declaration incorporates annual vision of 75 DEOs. The ESP provided technical and operational assistance in organizing these important annual events.



In the MTR of the ESP conducted in early 2015, financial management and procurement were identified as key areas where additional assistance were required by the ECN. Therefore, the ESP supported a comprehensive training on Procurement and Public Financial Management where 94 ECN officials from all the 75 District Election Offices (DEOs) were trained. The training focused on government current acts, policies and procedures on procurement and financial management. It also emphasized on how the ECN officials should maintain the books of account and systematically follow the procurement act for transparency, as well as, efficiency. In the post training survey, the officials shared that such training would help them be more informed about current government policies and procedures and provide skills to systematically manage finance and implement the Procurement Act.

Support with Professional Development and Cooperation

A total of 54 trainings/ seminars/ workshops were conducted this year in partnership with the ECN, IFES and IIDEA where 2,029 (32% women) ECN officials and electoral stakeholders were capacitated on different thematic areas: Social Inclusion and Gender, IT (PostgreSQL, Java, VLA database, Networking), Geographic Information System (GIS) and Risk Management, voter education etc. These training were conducted following BRIDGE modules and non-BRIDGE modality.



These trained ECN officials were extensively involved in planning and conducting 2015 by-election and were instrumental in rolling out the ECN Strategic Plan on thematic areas at central as well as local level. Furthermore, through the comprehensive BRIDGE, which included single module trainings and the TtF, the ECN in 2015 managed to accredit 90 national facilitators. This increased

significantly the pool of national capacity in Nepal on elections reducing the need to bring in an international experts to impart the course in future.

Support with Geographic Information and Electoral Mapping Systems

Demonstrating ownership and with acknowledgment of the importance of GIS and electoral mapping to reform electoral processes, the ECN in 2015 expanded its GIS section from 1 staff to 6 staff, led by an Under Secretary. The ECN is currently in the process of fulfilling remaining 3 positions that are vacant. The ESP technical expert continued providing on-site technical

assistance to the ECN official stationed at HQ for knowledge transfer and for them to lead all the processes of electoral mapping and GIS at central as well as district level.



In order to equip the ECN officials from the headquarters and DEOs on Geographic Information System and electoral mapping the Master Training Program on GIS was held where 25 technical officials from the ECN were trained by international GIS experts. These officials are now certified as an official international trainers on GIS. Similarly, with technical backstopping of the ESP, the ECN

developed series of national and regional electoral maps showing development regions, constituencies, VDC boundaries, polling locations etc.

The ESP also assisted the ECN in Early Recovery post devastating earthquakes of 2015. With support of ESP GIS Specialist, ECN GIS team produced series of maps, information products and analysis related to Nepal earthquakes.

Support with Creation and Display of New Voter Registration List

Voter registration was one of the key priority areas of assistance of ESP to the ECN in 2015. The ECN successfully registered additional 719,553 citizens of 16 years and above on biometric voters' roll accumulating a total registered citizens to 13.3 million. The updated voters' lists were used by the ECN to print out voters roll in 2015 by-election.



The ESP team worked closely with an international vendor called Tiger IT to complete the remaining work on development of software for continuous Voter Registration (VR). The final



testing was conducted in December. After that, the work of quality assurance will finalize the product, ensuring satisfactory hand-over to the ECN.

In 2015 earthquakes, the ECN voter registration datacenter was damaged. In order to safeguard VR data and give continuity to the VR process, ESP

supported the ECN to establish a temporary data center at EEIC building, which is now functional.

Dependency of the ECN on international TA has reduced over the years, particularly on voter registration, with 3 long term international technical advisors in 2013 to 1 in 2015 within limited visits. The ECN computer operators are now able to troubleshoot and impart trainings on most aspects of the voter register themselves.

Output 2

Election cycle conducted in an effective, sustainable and credible manner

Support with Procedures and Training

The ESP Operations and Logistic Officer worked closely with the ECN to provide advisory and technical support in strengthening its long term institutional and professional capacity in the area of elections operations and logistics. In order to start its preparation for the future elections, ESP provided technical support to the ECN in developing a draft operational plan, including a logistic plan.

Similarly, the ESP regional team stationed in each of the five regional offices, provided continuous technical support to the ECN district offices in planning and implementing its annual plan operationalizing the ECN Strategic Plan. Assistance was provided to plan and conduct 2015 by-election, establishment of regional EEIC, conducting trainings to different target groups etc.



Support with election operations and logistics

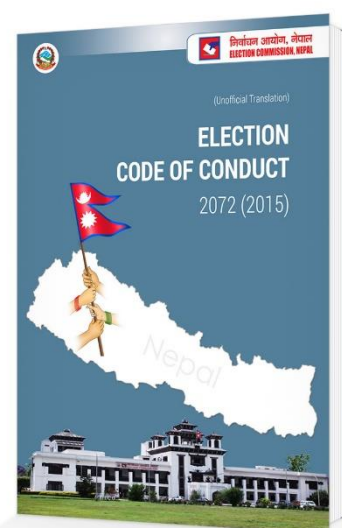
The project supported ECN in the area of operations and logistics support in 2015. As the project has five regional offices to support the ECN at the regional and district level, it provided on-site technical and advisory support to the ECN in the areas of capacity building, trainings, voter education etc. The regional teams has been organising and technically supporting the District Election Offices (DEO) training programme in different thematic areas. Through the

regional offices, project has also supported the establishment of Electoral Education Information Centre (EEIC) in three development regions. The regional offices assisted the Regional Election Offices in smooth operation of the EEIC and in coordination with the latter developed and implemented different strategy to pull in first time and youth voters to the centre. In 2015, there has been more than 2000 visitors especially youths have benefited from the centre on electoral education.



Support with Electoral Dispute Resolution (EDR)

With technical support of the ESP, ECN developed a Code of Conduct that was published in Nepal Gazette on 27 July 2015, and was officially launched by the ECN in November 2015. The code of conduct was developed in a participatory approach with inputs from electoral stakeholders including media and political parties. For effective implementation of the code of conduct, the ESP is assisting the ECN in developing a detailed plan to generate awareness among various stakeholders and also in developing its monitoring plans as monitoring of code of conduct was one of the biggest challenges encountered by the ECN in the past elections.



Support with Election Security

ESP provided its technical assistance to assessing potential for electoral violence. The change in government and promulgation of constitution has given hopes in conducting elections for different tiers (national, provincial and local level). In this context, ECN and ESP convened several discussions and meetings to develop and design mitigation strategies through the assessment of potential election violence in the future.

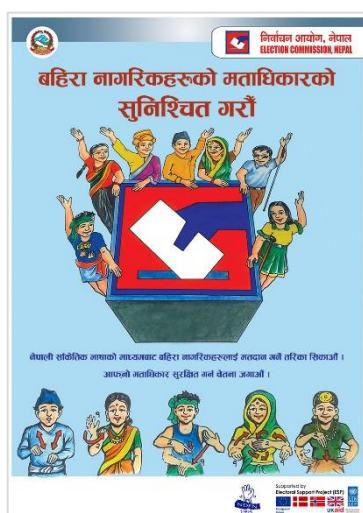
Output 3

Increased democratic participation in the next cycle of elections, particularly for under representative and disadvantaged segment of Nepalese society

Support with Public Outreach, Civic and Voter Education

As per the ECN, their engagement with the Social Studies teachers is one of the most impactful areas of assistance provided by ESP to sensitize youth and first time voters on democracy and elections. As elections is part of Social Studies curriculum in secondary and high school, the ESP continued promoting the ECN engagement with the teachers who impart electoral education to school children. A total of 427 Social Studies teachers from secondary schools were trained this year benefiting more than 25,000 students/future voters. In addition, for the very first time a Social Studies teachers' training also reached out to teachers with hearing disable. The ECN has received a very positive response from the social studies teachers on post training evaluation tests, where they have clearly stated their increased level of understanding on elections and democracy after the training that has enhanced their confidence to transfer the knowledge to school students, who will ultimately reach out to wider community.

In order to implement the recommendations of '**Voter Education Assessment of 2013 Constituent Assembly Elections,**' prepared by the ECN with technical support of ESP and with an objective of minimizing invalid votes in the future elections, the ESP supported the ECN in conducting voter education programme through print and electronic media. Regular broadcastings were done through 74 local radios and 2 national television channels on electoral and voting rights and processes reaching out to citizens residing in different parts of the country that will ultimately contribute in enhancing informed participation of citizens in the future elections.



Support with Electoral Education and Information Center (EEIC)

To sensitize citizens about civic and electoral rights, the ESP continued providing technical assistance to the ECN to operationalize the Electoral Education and Information Center (EEIC). Additional 2,000 youth, first time voters and physically challenged citizens were sensitized on democracy and elections through the Center this year, that accumulated a total registered to 22,000. As per the EEIC survey, over 90% of the visitors rated it as educational. To increase democratic participation of voters outside Kathmandu, the ECN established and started operationalizing two regional EEIC with ESP assistance. The ESP also supported ECN in developing a mobile EEIC as an innovative tool to reach out to youth residing in remote parts of the country. The mobile EEIC composes of interactive electoral games stored in computes, TV screen to show documentaries, posters, leaflets etc. Through the central and regional EEIC, the ECN will carry out mobile outreach programmes in remote parts of Nepal targeting marginalized communities from 2016 onwards.

In order to sustain the EEIC, over 90% of the operational cost of the EEIC in 2015 was allocated from the ECN regular budget that also demonstrates its ownership towards EEIC.

Support with External Relations

The ECN conducted a by-election in one constituency of Baglung district in 2015. For the coverage of the election and giving sound advice while dealing with the media, a competent media personnel from the fraternity was supported by the project.

In the context of constitution making, 15 participants from ECN, media, youth groups and domestic observer organisations were provided an academic course on Electoral Systems and Electoral Rights equivalent to 3 credits of Kathmandu University. The objective of the course was to convey the concept of elections and election law and its understanding to convert as basic electoral rights into electoral systems. The course in Electoral Rights covers a broad spectrum of issues related to representative democracies. The participants were able to comprehend international obligations to multi-party elections and interpret the general requirements and their ramification for national legislation. Additionally, they were also able to understand the complexity and diversity of systems of representations.

Support with Gender, Social Inclusion and Vulnerable Groups

With an aim of targeting 300,000 people with hearing disability, in addition to organizing electoral training to social studies teachers, the ESP also supported in the production of Voter and Civic Education Manual targeting people with hearing disability.

The ESP also provided technical assistance in development of Gender and Inclusion Strategy of the ECN based on its Gender and Social Inclusion Policy. The Strategy will be the guiding tool for the ECN to implement gender and social inclusion priorities in the coming years.



Monitoring and Evaluation

The mid-term review of the ESP was conducted in 2015. The MTR findings and recommendations are attached as Annex 1.

6. Budget and Expenditure

The following table shows the budget and expenditure for 2015

Activities	Approved Budget 2015	Expenditure
<i>Output 1. Strengthened capacity of the ECN to function as a permanent, independent, credible and professional institution of governance.</i>		
Activity 1.1: Support with Strategic Planning	162,640	127,081
Activity 1.2: Support with Professional Development and Cooperation	111,815	112,947
Activity 1.3: Support with Geographic Information and Electoral Mapping	100,045	100,098
Activity 1.4: Support with Creation and Display of New Voter Register	286,225	286,772
Sub Total	660,725	626,898
<i>Output 2. Election cycle conducted in an effective, sustainable, and credible manner.</i>		
Activity 2.1: Support with Procedures and Training	96,300	66,818
Activity 2.2: Support with Operations and Logistics	642,262	721,640
Activity 2.3: Support with Electoral Dispute Resolution	33,170	9,764
Activity 2.4: Support with Electoral Security	8,560	
Sub Total	780,292	798,223
<i>Output 3. Increased democratic participation in the next cycle of elections, particularly for under-represented and disadvantaged segments of the Nepali society.</i>		
Activity 3.1: Support with Public Outreach, Civic and Voter Education	92,020	90,467
Activity 3.2: Support with Electoral Education and Information Center(s)	259,276	223,678
Activity 3.3: Support with External Relations	16,050	11,084
Activity 3.4: Gender social inclusion and vulnerable groups	83,460	65,429
Sub Total	450,806	390,658
<i>Output 4. Programme management and quality support</i>		
Activity 4.1 Monitoring & Evaluations	284,575	230,023
Activity 4.2 UNDP Project Set-up, Running Costs	323,602	249,649
Sub Total	608,177	479,672
Total	2,500,000	2,295,451

Amount in US\$

7. Cross Cutting Issues

7.1 Targeting and Voice/Participation of target groups

The project direct beneficiary is the Election Commission of Nepal. The project main objective to build the capacity of ECN staff to conduct free, fair and credible elections in Nepal. Through its five regional offices established in five development regions, it builds the capacity of the ECN and its five regional and 75 district election offices, preparing them from conducting a professional elections. Further, along with ECN, the project is also supporting various activities targeting gender and social inclusion to mainstream in the electoral processes. It has supported ECN in developing strategy to penetrate in marginalised community with the voter education programmes to participate in the electoral process particularly in voter registration. To expand the information and knowledge on elections, social studies teachers are targeted to students who are first time voters through electoral education programmes. Through electoral education activities for people with hearing disabilities death population is targeted and capacitated by developing manuals and producing IEC materials for this group with special needs in terms of communication.

7.2 Gender Equality, Women's Empowerment, and Social Inclusion

The ECN with technical assistance of ESP developed a Gender Strategy to mainstream GESI at institutional/programmatic level. Capacity of 324 female on elections has been strengthened to perform as electoral administrator, candidates and voters.

Enhanced capacity of the ECN on Gender and Social Inclusion (GESI) through TA of ESP enabled the ECN to mainstream GESI in the two year action plan (2015-2016) for implementation of its Strategic Plan (2015-2019). The ECN established its Gender Unit and developed its Gender Strategy and organized targeted programmes that enhanced participation of marginalized groups on electoral processes, where UNDP provided advisory assistance. UNDP and ECN trained 100 members (43 female) of National Deaf Federation of Nepal (NDFN) on electoral processes and together with NDFN, organized drama, exhibition and produced manual for this targeted section of the society. Following which, NDFN conducted trainings for 24 Social Studies school teachers (13 female) with hearing disability. As shared by the trained teachers training conducted for 24 Social Studies school teachers (13 female) with hearing disability strengthened their confidence to impart electoral knowledge to students as electoral education is part of secondary and high school curriculum

7.3 Scaling up

The project support to the ECN is mostly the technical assistance on capacity building and electoral reform, where the actual implementation is led by the ECN with commitment of scaling up. For example, the Strategic Plan, Gender and Social inclusion Policy, the Electoral Code of Conduct that were developed with support of ESP are now implemented by the ECN in its leadership. The ECN is coordinating with different partners for this successful

implementation. The EEIC is expanded at regional level, with two additional centres established in Pokhara and Dhangadi. The voter registration update programme started with ESP technical and advisory support, ensuring nation-wide coverage.

7.4 Capacity Development

UNDP continued providing technical assistance to ECN to implement its Strategic Plan (2015-2019). Through peer to peer support and institutional strengthening, TA on voter registration, GIS electoral mapping, GESI, electoral dispute resolution etc. The knowledge transferred to national counterpart would contribute in conducting credible future elections. A total of 2031 ECN officials and stakeholders were trained this year.

Capacity building of National Deaf Federation of Nepal (NDFN) through TA strengthened its technical capacity on electoral issues. As a result NDFN conducted trainings to social studies teachers, organized outreach programme, developed outreach materials and manuals to sensitize people with hearing disabilities. This practice of providing training to school teachers was successful as they acknowledged that it has enhanced their confidence to impart electoral knowledge to school students who are the potential future voters.

7.5 Sustainability

Dependency of ECN on international TA decreased, particularly on voter registration (VR), from 3 international project staff in 2013 to 1 in 2015. The ECN is now able to troubleshoot most aspects of the VR themselves through its regular staff. Over 90% of operational cost of EEIC in 2015 was from ECN budget compared to over 80% from ESP in 2012 indicating a move towards sustainability. The accredited national BRIDGE facilitators increased to 90 reducing need to bring in international experts to impart the course.

7.6 South-South and Triangular Cooperation

The ESP supported the study visit of six ECN officials to the Election Commission of Pakistan in Islamabad. In the 6-days visit, the officials from two countries shared their experiences in the areas of Strategic Planning, Voter Registration, and Civic and Voter Education. The visit also provided an opportunity for the ECN officials to learn about the decentralization of voter registration program at the provincial level and good practices in civic and voter education activities in Pakistan. The Election Management Bodies (EMBs) of both the countries plan to exchange information and replicate best practices through continuous long term partnership. The project also supported the visit of Chief Election Commissioner (CEC), Mr. Neel Kantha Uprety to attend the 2nd Asian Electoral Stakeholder Forum in Dili, Timor-Leste. Officials from EMBs of 27 countries participated in the forum. As part of south-south and regional cooperation, the Project supported a visit of 5 ECN officials to participate in a training on “*Election Management: Role of Technology*” in New Delhi from 15-25 September 2015.

The Project had initiated the preparation for the EC/UNDP Joint Taskforce Workshop in coordination with ECN, European Commission and UNDP Brussels Office, to be conducted in May 2015. Unfortunately, due to the earthquake the activity was postponed indefinitely.

A 10-day SAARC Regional Level BRIDGE Train the Facilitators (Tff) workshop was organized in Kathmandu. A total of 20 participants (6 female and 14 male) attended the TtF representing all SAARC countries. The main objective of the workshop was to train potential BRIDGE facilitators of SAARC countries in BRIDGE materials and methodology.

7.7 Knowledge Management and Products

A report on “*An Assessment of the Voter Education Programme*” has been published. The study shows that continuous implementation of the Voter Education Programme for different groups of societies in a collective way using various outreach tools and reaching out to the grassroots level will increase participation of voters and decrease invalid votes in future elections. The assessment report has been published in both English and Nepali languages and shared with electoral stakeholders.

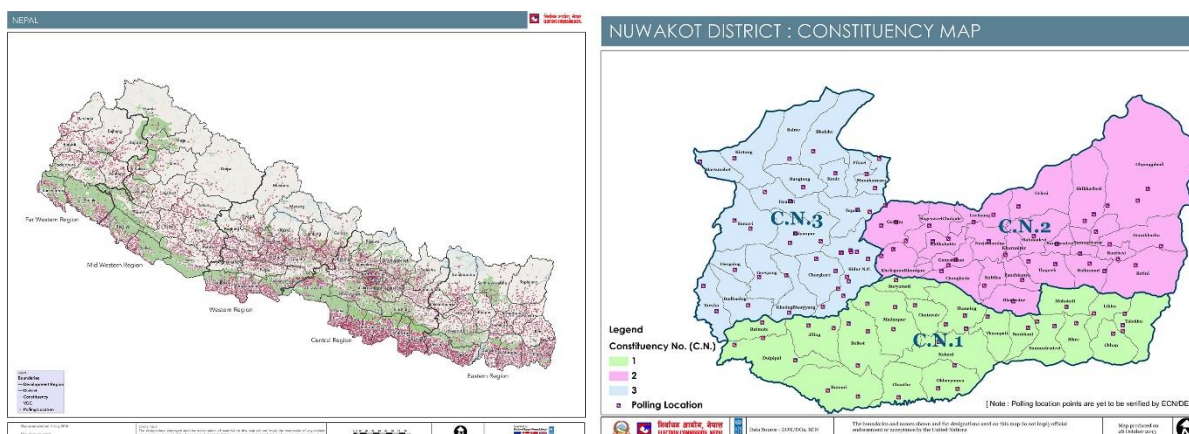
The Five Year Strategic Plan (2015-19) and Two Year Action Plan (2015-16) of the Election Commission of Nepal has been recently published.

Election Commission of Nepal (ECN) enacted the Election Code of Conduct based on wider consultation with key electoral stakeholders across the country. The Code of Conduct is already published in Nepal’s Gazette ESP has provided necessary technical and logistical arrangements in nation-wide consultation, drafting, and finalization of the Election Code of Conduct.



Open Street Mapping (OSM), Survey Department and Election Commission Datasets. These maps are being widely disseminated to ECN Secretariat, Regional Election Offices and other electoral stakeholders in strengthening their electoral knowledge and planning electoral activities in each development region.

ESP has supported development of a new series of national and regional electoral maps. The map shows development regions, districts, constituencies, VDC boundaries, a nation-wide snapshot of polling locations datasets captured by all 75 District Election Office (DEO) across the country prior to CA Election 2013.



7.8 Partnerships

ESP worked in partnership with the ECN, International Foundation for Election Systems (IFES) and International Institute for Democracy and Electoral Assistance (IIDEA) in conducting trainings, particularly the BRIDGE workshops. Each agency brought in its expertise and collectively assisted the ECN in planning and conducting these trainings. In 2015, through joint effort, ECN certified 90 semi and fully accredited new facilitators.

Similarly, the ESP facilitated the coordination between the Ministry of Federal Affairs and Local Development (MoFALD) and the ECN that resulted in mainstreaming a chapter on elections in MOFALD Local Governance and Community Development Programmae “*Social Mobilization Guideline*” This guideline will be used by MoFALD in 2016 in training more than 4430 social mobilizers stationed in 75 districts.

The ESP also worked in collaboration with Early Recovery cluster led by the Ministry of Federal Affairs and Local Development and Ministry of Urban Development and provided TA in the area of GIS, administration and district coordination. These support helped in providing timely assistance to the Ministry in relief and recovery work aftermath of 2015 earthquakes.

8. Implementation Issues and Challenges

- The devastating earthquakes of 2015 had severe implication on implementation of planned activities. The ECN building where the project was embedded was severely damaged. Due to which the project had to be relocated to another site to ensure operations. The ECN officials were also stationed at EEIC building on a temporary basis. The voter registration data centre was also damaged and had to be related at EEIC
- The political situation with frequent border and highways blockade in Tarai region also impacted implementation of project activities. Due to which many planned activities had to be postponed and rescheduled.
- The ECN was left with only two Commissioners in 2015 out of five. It delayed the decision making processes within the ECN.

9. A Specific Story

Kabi Lal Bastola, 71 stepped in the District Administration office (DAO) office of Morang district to get citizenship certificate for her daughter. His daughter Kumari Bastola, 20 left her school in the middle of her studies not even completing School Leaving Certificate as he could not afford her studies coming from a farming profession. They migrated from Okhaldhunga one of the earthquake affected districts some years ago for better living and now are residing in Sidharaha VDC of Morang district. District Election Office (DEO) has been regularly

conducting Voter Registration programme in DAO and Kabi came to know about it. Earlier, he knew there was a mobile voter registration team who visited his village in the last Constituent Assembly Elections in 2013 but couldn't register due to his daily farming commitment. After getting the citizenship, they also came to know about registering in the voter's list facility in DAO office. They both were glad to register in the voters roll and Kabi reiterates that he regrets not voting in the last election and decides to choose the right representative through his ballot in the next elections.



New eligible person as soon as they receive the Citizenship certificate and those missed earlier can register in all 75 District Administration office (DAO) including selective Area Administration Offices (AAO) like Kabi and Kumari. There is a separate voter registration unit within the DAO/AAO premises. ECN five year strategy pursues to register 800,000 voters every year. Despite unforeseen circumstances in 2015, ECN still remarkably managed to register 719,553. ESP has been continuously supporting ECN technically to the voter registration process particularly, in terms of software development and capacity building of staff.

10. Priorities for 2016

Activity 1.1 Support to Strategic Planning

ESP will support the ECN in the implementation of its Five Year Strategic Plan. The key areas of the support will be on restructuring the institution; technical and operational supports for conducting future elections; support in the implementation of the Gender and Social Inclusion policy and action plan; legal reforms and so forth. Additionally, ESP will support the ECN in establishing an effective monitoring and evaluation framework for the strategic plan and at

the same time build ECN capacity to effectively use these tools to monitor and evaluate the activities of the Strategic Plan.

1.2 Support with Professional Development and Cooperation

The project will continue to support the ECN to develop a mechanism for staff retention in at least in specific technical areas. Capacity will also be enhanced in the setting up the practice of handover/takeover and archiving of documents for future references. Support to ECN will be provided in mandatory induction trainings for newly joined civil servants through Election BRIDGE training curriculum. As part of its exit strategy, the project will assist the ECN in conducting a follow-up assessment on implementation of Election BRIDGE training as part of a sustainability strategy. The project will also support in building the capacity in financial and procurement management.

Activity 1.3 Support with Geographic and Information Management Systems

The project will strengthen the capacity of the ECN officials on the use of GIS technology so that the institution will fully takeover the GIS unit and operate independently. The project will support the ECN with necessary equipment and capacity building to make the unit capable of producing maps on its own for electoral operational planning.

Activity 1.4 Support with Creation and Display of New Voter Register

ESP will advise the ECN to conduct the Voters List Assessment by an independent firm/team of consultants to validate the accuracy of the voters roll. In coordination with ECN, the project will provide technical assistance to conduct the assessment. The ECN staff at HQ and District Election Offices will be capacitated to roll out the new voter registration software. Based on the assessment, additional voter registration kits/software will be provided to the ECN to ensure smooth operation of continuous voter registration. The VR database that was temporary transferred to another location due to the earthquake will be shifted to a secured location.

Activities 2.1 Support with Procedures and Training

ESP will support the ECN in developing an integrated legal framework for successful conduct of different types of elections (local, provincial and national). As Supreme Court has asked to include in the provision "*None of the above*" (Right to reject candidates) in the ballots, ECN requires to analyse the concept and develop legal framework accordingly where ESP can support. Similarly, developing training materials based on the electoral processes and systems will be supported to train the human resources.

Activity 2.2 Support with election Operations and Logistics

ESP will support in developing an operational plan for upcoming elections and provide technical advice at HQ and field level. At the time of elections, ESP will further support in procurement of sensitive and non-sensitive electoral materials as per the request of ECN. The project will support the ECN in establishment and upgrading of warehouses at regional/provincial level, which will be used as hubs for deployment and retrieval of electoral materials. During electoral period, the project will recruit additional human resources for the support to ECN, if necessary.

Activity 2.3 Support with Electoral Dispute Resolution

ESP will enhance the institutional capacity of the ECN by developing EDR operating procedures and establishing a database on EDR. The project will also strengthen the capacity of ECN officials and electoral stakeholders on EDR mechanism. In order to sensitise the electoral stakeholders and voters about the mechanism for registering complaints during elections, the project will also assist the Commission in developing public outreach materials and organising campaigns to reinforce the messages. In addition, the project will also assist ECN in monitoring Election Code of Conduct which was recently published.

Activity 2.4 Support with Election security

The project will support the ECN in developing of Electoral Violence Mitigation Strategy. Several orientation programmes will also be organised for security institutions of the government on the strategy and its implementation.

Activity 3.1 Support with Public Outreach, Civic and Voter Education

ESP will continue to support ECN on voter education campaigns through Radio, TV and print media on the new electoral systems, especially targeting youth and first time voters. While anticipating the local elections after more than 18 years, voters must be informed on the electoral system for the local bodies' election.

The recommendations of the voter education assessment 2013 will be considered while implementing activities focusing to reduce the invalid ballots in the next elections. Cultural camps and mobile voter education campaigns will supplement the public outreach focusing in the areas as per recommendation provided by the voter education assessment. Different public outreach electoral materials in an appropriate format targeting women, marginalised group, youth and people with disabilities will be produced. ESP will encourage ECN to further liaise with different electoral stakeholders for mobilising voter education programmes in the districts.

Activity 3.2 Support with establishment of Electoral Education Information Centre

ESP will support the ECN in the expansion of EEIC in the regions. Through regional EEIC it will support the Social Studies Teacher's Training and develop a strategy for the awareness of EEIC at the regions. The project will support ECN in developing a special information package/programme for women and vulnerable groups through mobile EEIC.

Activity 3.3 Support with External Relations

ESP will encourage the ECN to build relationships with different election stakeholders such as CSOs, Political Parties, media etc. by holding meetings, events and workshops with those different entities. The project will support the development of the ECN media strategy, ensuring capacity building of press officers. Handbook for journalists on election concepts and reporting which will help ECN establish better relations with the media. The project will provide technical support in strengthening ECN capacity in building relationship. Media monitoring will also be another key areas of assistance to the Commission during electoral period. Further, ESP will also provide technical assistance to ECN in managing relations with observers groups and facilitate accreditation.

Activity 3.4 Support with Gender, Social Inclusion and Vulnerable Groups

After the development of Gender Policy and Unit which was supported by ESP, the project will ensure the implementation of the policy putting into actions whether it be capacity building, voter registration, public outreach, civic or voter education materials. The project will develop specific knowledge products on GESI.

11. Risk and Issue Logs

11.1 Risk Log Matrix

S.N	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	Mitigation measures if risk occurs	Date risk is Identified	Last Updated	Status
1	Uncertainty of upcoming elections - Due to the current political situation, the dates of the upcoming elections is uncertain posing challenges in the planning of the electoral assistance and allocation of resources.	Political	Low	2	ESP will work in coordination with the ECN to identify areas where the Commission requires assistance once date for local election is announced. That will enable ESP to provide timely assistance following UNDP policies and procedures. In the non-election year, UNDP will focus on capacity building of the ECN based on the lessons learned from 2013 CA election. In preparation for the future elections, the project providing technical assistance to the ECN in developing the electoral Code of Conduct.	January 2015	December 2015	The constitution was promulgated in 2015 by the second CA. The constitution anticipates several elections of different tiers. However, the elections could not take place in 2015.
2	Staff transfer during non-election period- The retention of ECN officials at HQ and local level is a challenge for the Commission in the context of the current administrative structure of the ECN in which the staff are public servants and follow their	Political	High	4	Since capacity development and voter education are prime areas linked to the overall institutional development of the ECN, the support of the international organizations\donors in these areas should continue to be a priority. The ESP support has a specific focus on public outreach, voter	January 2015	December 2015	ESP assisted the ECN in the area of public outreach and voter education as outlines in its Strategic Plan. This support will be continued , but with further emphasis on targeted areas where the voters turnout

	<p>respective rules and regulations in terms of transfer and</p> <p>This situation is a challenge since the project is investing heavily on capacity enhancement of ECN officials for professional development. re-deployment</p>				<p>education and enhancing the overall capacity of the ECN by supporting the ECN to develop capacity development plan for regional programming for 2015 and giving continuity to other professional development and institutional strengthening initiatives as per the ECN requirements\needs.</p>			<p>was low and invalid voters were high</p>
3	<p>Limited State Budget to the ECN in area of voter education, capacity building and trainings- The ECN has received limited State budget for this FY. The total budget received by the ECN is particularly limited in the areas of voter education, capacity building and trainings. The activities under the above mentioned areas that were previously co-funded by the ECN, UNDP and other partners will now heavily rely on funds received from international community.</p>	Financial	High	4	<p>Since capacity development and voter education are prime areas linked to the overall institutional development of the ECN, the support of the international organizations\donors in these areas should continue to be a priority. ESP support has a specific focus on public outreach, voter education and enhancing the overall capacity of the ECN by supporting the ECN to develop capacity development plan for regional programming for 2015 and giving continuity to other professional development and institutional strengthening initiatives as per the ECN requirements\needs</p>	January 2015	December 2015	

11.2 Issue Log Matrix

S.N	Type	Date Identified	Description and Comments	Resolution measures recommended	Status of the issue	Status Change Date
1	Procurement and financial management capacity of the ECN	January 2015	From the past experience of ESP it has been noticed that the ECN is resistant in accepting assistance in the area of procurement and financial management. But enhancing the capacity of the ECN in these areas is constantly raised by PEB members and was one of the issues identified in review of ESP Phase I.	ESP provided several trainings to the ECN in the area of procurement and financial management. In further consultation with the Commission activities to strengthen the capacity of the ECN at central and regional levels are developed and incorporated in 2015 AWP.		December 2015
2	Software for continuous voter registration	January 2015	The work on development of software for continuous voter registration has been delayed with multiple contract extension. Despite regular follow-up and close monitoring by the Project, there is still a possibility that the work may not be fully completed during the contract period. This will also have an implication on project activities.	In order to ensure the quality of software being developed, upon formal approval of the PEB, this activity was continued in 2015 with a focus on strong quality assurance mechanism.		

Annex 1: ESP Annual M&E plan 2015

Expected Results (Outcomes & Outputs from your AWP)	Indicators (with annual Baselines & Targets)	M&E Event with Data Collection Methods	Time or Schedule and Frequency	Responsibilities	Means of Verification: Data Source and Type	2015 Progress
UNDAF Outcome and the CP Output <i>UNDAF Outcome (2013-2017)</i> Institutions, systems and processes of democratic governance are more accountable, effective, efficient and inclusive <i>Expected Country Programme (CP) Output (2013-2017)</i> Election Commission has the capacity to conduct credible, inclusive and transparent elections	Indicator: % of women and minority candidates in national and local elections Baseline: 33% of women candidates in CA Elections 2008 Target: 40% women candidates in the CA Elections 2013	Documents/ Reports Review	During national and local elections	ECN, ESP	ECN Reports	Not applicable in 2015 as it is a non-election year
	Indicator: % of eligible voters (men & women) who turn out in national and local elections Baseline: 62.5 % of total registered voters voted in CA Elections 2008 Target: 67% in both national and local elections	Documents/ Reports Review	During national and local elections	ECN, ESP	ECN Reports	Not applicable in 2015 as it is a non-election year
	Indicator: % of men and women eligible to vote who are registered by ECN with photographs and biometric profiling Baseline: Approximately 66% of in-country citizens of 16 years and above registered in 2012 Target: 70% of men and women registered	Project MIS	Annual	ECN, ESP	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ECN Reports • ESP Reports 	81% (based on 2011 census) of in-country citizens of 16 years and above registered by 2015
	Indicator: % of invalid ballots on national elections and local elections Baseline: In 2008 CA Elections, the invalid vote was 5.15% and 3.66% under the FPTP and PR respectively Target: Less than 3%	Documents/ Reports Review	During national and local elections	ECN, ESP	ECN Reports	Not applicable in 2015 as it is a non-election year
	Indicator: Number of citizens sensitized on electoral system and processes through EEIC	Project MIS	Annual	ECN, ESP	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ECN Reports • ESP Reports 	A total of 2000 sensitized on electoral systems through the

	Baseline: More than 6,000 as of December 2012 Target: 5000					EEICs in Kathmandu, Pokhara and Dhangadi
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) Baseline: 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 in 2008. ECN's decision- 'voting annulled' for 12 cases and 'no action required' for 52 cases. Target: a) Elections are held in a timely manner without postponement b) National and international observers report stating that the elections are effective c) Reduced number of cases of electoral violence reported at the ECN	Documents/ Reports Review	During national and local elections	ECN, ESP	ECN Reports	Not applicable in 2015 as it is a non-election year
1.1 Support with Strategic Planning	Indicator: # of activities (under the Two Year Action Plan) completed Baseline: Strategic Plan 2015-2019 released in May 2015 Target: 10 activities completed	Project MIS	Bi-yearly	ESP, ECN	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ECN Reports • ESP Reports 	All 10 activities related to Voter Registration, Electoral Education, Voter Education and Gender Mainstreaming of the Strategic Plan's Two Year Action Plan have been completed in 2015.
1.2 Support with Professional Development and Cooperation	Indicator: Number of ECN staff and other stakeholders trained on electoral processes Baseline: More than 1000 people trained on BRIDGE and electoral processes (2012)	Project MIS	Quarterly	ESP	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Project MIS • Training Reports • Training Assessments and evaluation 	A total of 2,031 ECN staff and other stakeholders including social studies teachers and deaf citizens were trained on electoral processes including Election BRIDGE, Voter

	<p>Target: At least 400 ECN officials and other stakeholders trained</p>					Registration, IT (PostgreSQL, Java, VLA database, Networking).
	<p>Indicator: % of trained officials who report an increase in their knowledge and understanding on electoral processes Baseline: Pre-post data existed but not reported Target: 70%</p>	Pre-post Training Evaluation	Quarterly	ESP	Training Completion Report	More than 80% of Election BRIDGE, Social Studies, IT and Project Management Training participants reported an increased knowledge and understanding in the pre and posttest analysis and end of training evaluation - as per pre-post and end of training evaluation reports.
1.3 Support with Geographic Information and Electoral Mapping Systems	<p>Indicator: Number and types of maps used by ECN in electoral planning and administration Baseline: Thematic maps on CA Election produced and widely disseminated Target: At least 8 series of electoral maps produced and second edition of electoral atlas updated</p>	Project MIS	Quarterly	ECN, ESP	Project MIS	6 series of poster size electoral maps showing development regions, districts, constituencies, VDC boundaries were produced.
	<p>Indicator: # of DEO staff trained on GIS Baseline: More than 300 staff including DEOs (2012) Target: More than 75 staff from DEOs</p>	Project MIS	Quarterly	ECN, ESP	Project MIS	49 ECN staff trained on Geographic Information System (GIS)
1.4 : Support with Creation and Display of New Voter Register	<p>Indicator: # of citizens registered by ECN with photographs and biometric profiling Baseline: 10.9 m citizens registered (2012) Target: 5,00,000 citizens</p>	Project MIS	Quarterly	ECN, ESP	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ECN Reports • ESP Reports 	719,553 citizens of 16 years and above were registered through mobile voter registration campaigns, and continuous registrations at District Election Offices (DEOs), Area Administrative offices (AAO) and District Administrative Offices (DAO).
Output 2: Elections Cycle conducted in an	Detailed election administrative procedures and operational plans in place before the elections	Documents/ Reports Review	During national	ECN, ESP	ECN Reports	Not applicable in 2015 as it is a non-election year

effective, sustainable and credible manner	Baseline: 2012- ESP supported ECN in preparing a draft operational plan. Target: Procedures and plans prepared in advance of elections		and local elections			
2.1: Support with Procedures and Training	Indicator: Number of ECN officials & election stakeholders trained in different electoral procedures Baseline: 125,184 staff and 108,806 volunteers in 2013 CA Elections Target: At least 200 ECN officials trained on electoral procedures (Non-BRIDGE)	Project MIS	Quarterly	ESP	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Project MIS • Training Reports • Training Assessments and evaluation 	625 ECN officials from the central and regional level participated in workshops organized by the ECN in the process of developing the Code of Conduct to be used in future elections.
2.3 Support with Electoral Dispute Resolution	Indicator: A Model Code of Conduct developed/revised in a consultative manner Baseline: Existing Code of Conduct to be revised Target: Revised Code of Conduct	Project MIS	Quarterly	ESP, ECN	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ECN Reports • ESP Reports 	The Code of Conduct developed by the ECN with technical assistance of ESP was published in Nepal's Gazette on 27th July 2015. The ESP is continuing to provide assistance to the ECN in publication, wider dissemination and implementation of the Code of Conduct.
Output 3: Increased democratic participation in the next cycle of elections, particularly for under-represented and disadvantaged segments of the Nepali society	% of women, youth (18-39), senior (60+) and different under-represented and disadvantaged groups participating in the elections / electoral events Baseline: 2008 elections- Provision for 50% but data not available Target: Gender disaggregated data is maintained for recruitment/trainings	Documents/ Reports Review	During national and local elections	ESP, ECN	ECN Reports	Not applicable in 2015 as it is a non-election year
3.1 Support with Public Outreach, Civic and Voter Education	Indicator: # of civic and voter education programs produced Baseline: EEIC Documentary on 'Nepal's Electoral History' produced (2012) Target: 20 episodes of Radio Program and 15 episodes of TV Program	Project MIS	Quarterly	ESP	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ECN Reports • ESP Reports 	5 episodes of radio program and 5 episodes of TV program on electoral and voting rights and processes were broadcasted through 74 local radios and 2 national television channels.

3.2: Support with Electoral Education and Information Center	Indicator: # of stakeholders who visit the EEIC (disaggregated by gender, type of stakeholders) Baseline: 6172 (2012) Target: 5000	Project MIS	Quarterly	ESP, EEIC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • EEIC Reports • ESP Reports 	2,000 youth, first time voters and physically challenged citizens sensitized on democracy and elections through EEIC
	Indicator: : % of surveyed visitors who report improved knowledge and awareness on democratic and electoral system Baseline: More than 70%, Target: More than 75%	Visitors Evaluation	Bi-yearly	ESP	Visitors Evaluation Forms	Over 90% of the visitors who evaluated their visits reported that their knowledge on democracy and electoral system increased after visiting the center (bi-yearly EEIC evaluation report, 2072).
3.4 Gender, Social Inclusion and Vulnerable Groups	Indicator: Initiatives undertaken by the ECN in implementing the Gender Policy Baseline: Gender Committee formed; Gender Unit established Target: At least 4 interaction programmes with electoral stakeholders to sensitize gender policy	Project MIS	Bi-yearly	ESP	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ECN Reports • ESP Reports 	2 interaction programmes with electoral stakeholders were held in Pokhara and Dhulikhel. ESP also supported in the production of Electoral and Civic Education Manual targeting people with hearing disability and provided technical assistance in development



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