

**FINAL REPORT**

**KYRGYZ ELECTION SUPPORT PROJECT phase II (KESP-II)**

Reporting Period: December 2014 – June 2018



United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) the Kyrgyz Republic

Bishkek, November 2018

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# List of Abbreviations

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| ABB | Automatic Ballot Boxes |
| AWP | Annual Work Plan |
| CDCS | Coalition for Democracy and Civil Society |
| CEC | Central Commission for Elections and Referenda |
| CET | Center of Electoral Technologies |
| CSA | Cost-Sharing Agreement |
| CSO | Civil Society Organization |
| DIM | Direct Implementation Modality |
| EDR | Electoral Dispute Resolution |
| EMB | Electoral Management Body |
| EN | Exchange Note |
| EVID | Electronic Voter Identification |
| GA | Grant Agreement |
| GMS | General Management Services |
| HACT | Harmonized Approach to Cash Transfers |
| ICT | Information and Communication Technologies |
| IFES | International Foundation for Election Systems |
| Infocom | State Enterprise “Infocom” under the State Registration Service of the Kyrgyz Republic |
| IP | Implementing Partner |
| ITB | Invitation to Bid |
| JICA | Japan International Cooperation Agency |
| KESP | Kyrgyz Election Support Project |
| KOICA | Korea International Cooperation Agency |
| LOA | Letter of Agreement |
| LTA | Long-Term Agreement |
| MFA | Ministry of Foreign Affairs |
| NGO | Non-Governmental Organization |
| NSSD | National Strategy for Sustainable Development for the Kyrgyz Republic |
| OSCE | Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe |
| PC | Project Coordinator |
| PEC | Precinct Election Commission |
| ProDoc | Project Document |
| SRS | State Registration Service under the Government of the Kyrgyz Republic |
| TOR | Terms of Reference |
| TEC | Territorial Election Commission |
| UN | United Nations |
| UNDP | United Nations Development Programme |
| UVRIMS | Unified Voter Registration Information Management System |
| PMU | Programme Management Unit |
| RBEC | Regional Bureau on Europe and Central Asia |
| RR | Resident Representative |

# Executive Summary

The aim of the Kyrgyz Election Support Project - Phase II (KESP-II) was to support and accompany the Central Commission for Elections and Referenda (CEC) in the conduct of the electoral cycle 2015-2017, which a massive introduction of Information and Communication Technologies (ICT) would be introduced. Besides, ensuring that the sequence was free, fair and peaceful was also one of the objectives. UNDP, with the cooperation of the Governments of Denmark and Switzerland, successfully delivered a series of activities which met the project outcomes resulting in the targeted elections which were implemented peacefully. KESP-II proceeded under the three components mentioned below.

* Component 1: Advancement of ICT introduction into the electoral management process
* Component 2: Institutional communication, civic and voter education campaigns
* Component 3: Electoral dispute resolution and electoral security training

Regarding Component 1, KESP-II supported CEC and the State Registration Service (SRS) with the introduction of new equipment for biometric registration and identification of voters and provided extensive country-ranged training on proper use of the new stuff for more than 12,500 specialists of CEC and SRS. Within this component, the project supported to develop a new website for CEC in 2017.

For Component 2, the project contributed to internal and external communication and information efforts of CEC. Some local civil society organizations (CSO) conducted public awareness campaigns for voters around the country, including the most vulnerable groups settled in “novostroikas” near Bishkek.

About Component 3, for the 2017 Presidential Election, UNDP assisted the Center of Electoral Technologies (CET) in CEC for Electoral Dispute Resolution (EDR), including public awareness campaigns. The project partner organizations were keen on conducting public information and EDR training for political parties and law-enforcement as well. Also, the project developed training materials on the new electoral legislation and EDR for participants.

Overall, KESP-II succeeded in its primary goals to support the critical electoral events. The 2015 Parliamentary Elections were recognized as free, fair a transparent, and the 2017 Presidential Election became a historic vote - the first “regular” transition of power from a sitting president who has completed a constitutionally defined term of office to an elected successor. This election was also competitive and peaceful. CEC started posting on its website detailed preliminary election results by polling station, based on initial results provided by the ballot scanners, shortly after the end of voting.

The project was eventually extended by April 2018 (non-cost basis) to finalize the reconstruction of the SRS Capacity Development Center.

# Introduction

An electoral system which is strictly regulated and well-designed with a utilization of the Information and Communication Technology (ICT) equipment is vital for conducting fair elections and obtaining public confidence and enough voter turnout. To improve internal and external communication and answer citizens’ high expectation on democracy and credibility relating to the polls, the Central Commission for Elections and Referenda (CEC) developed their capacities with practical knowledge and skills.

## Project Data

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Title | Kyrgyz Election Support Project, Phase II (KESP-II) |
| Project # | 00093072 |
| Objective of the Project | To support and accompany CEC in the conduct of the upcoming electoral cycle where a massive introduction of ICT will be introduced and ensure that the electoral cycle is free, fair and peaceful. |
| Donor | UNDP, the Governments of Denmark and Switzerland |
| Counterparts | CEC and the State Registration Service (SRS) under the Government of Kyrgyz Republic |
| Beneficiary | CEC, SRS, Civil Society Organizations (CSO) and citizens |
| Budget | USD 1,727,213 (Utilization) |
| Duration | 40 months  The project was signed and launched on 11 December 2014 |
| Timeline | Start Date: 11 December 2014  Originally-expected End Date: 31 December 2017  Definitive End Date: 30 April 2018 |
| Location(s) | Bishkek and across the country |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| NSSD  2013-2017 | Chapter 2. Establishing a state governed by the rule of law and ensuring the supremacy of law  2.2. Ensuring free democratic elections |
| UNDAF  2012-2016  Outcome /  Expected CP Outcome | Pillar 1: Peace and Cohesion, Effective Democratic Governance, and Human Rights  Outcome 2: By 2016, national and local authorities apply the rule of law and civic engagement principles in the provision of services, with the active participation of civil society. |
| Expected Output(s) | 1. Advancement of ICT introduction into the electoral management process  2. Institutional communication, civic and voter education campaigns  3. Electoral dispute resolution and electoral security training |

Note: This report covers the activities of KESP-II corresponding to the period covered by the contributions of Denmark and Switzerland. However, it should be noted that KESP-II was a multi-donor project, and more bilateral, Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) supported the respective elections. Besides, it should be noted that the final individual evaluation has not completed at this moment.

## Political Background

The Kyrgyz Republic gained independence from the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics in 1991. Since then, the country has experienced two revolutions that have both resulted in ousting its first two presidents, Askar Akaev in 2005 and Kurmanbek Bakiev in 2010. As a result of the revolution in April 2010, the new constitutional framework was adopted through the nationwide referendum held on 27 June 2010. This referendum and the follow-up Parliamentary Elections were evaluated as the most open, transparent and democratic ones in the history of the Kyrgyz Republic, and characterized by extensive use of administrative resources and other discrepancies. Following the Presidential Election in December 2011, the Interim President, Roza Otunbaeva peacefully transferred her power to the President, Almazbek Atambaev, and this was an unprecedented situation in the whole of Central Asia’s new political history.

In October 2015, by introducing biometric identification equipment and automatic ballot boxes, other Parliamentary Elections were held. These elections were done under the Presidential Decree “[o]n Measures on the Improvement of the Electoral System of the Kyrgyz Republic”, which was signed on 22 May 2013, ordered introduction of innovative technologies as a means of increasing the credibility of elections. According to several observers, there were no serious criticisms, conflicts or failure of equipment during the polls, and each party enjoyed the equal opportunities for campaigning. Besides, there were no visible “administrative resources” used by the government before and during the elections.

In December 2016, a constitutional referendum was held in the country. While approximately 80% of voters approved the amendments, the ratio of registered people was only 42% of eligible voters[[1]](#footnote-1). Even though five parties proposed the revision of the constitution in the Parliament, Ata-Meken opposed an initiative for introducing suggested amendments to the structure later. The modifications included increasing the powers of the [Prime Minister](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Prime_Minister_of_Kyrgyzstan) and [Supreme Council](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Supreme_Council_(Kyrgyzstan)) and making reforms to the judicial system. Thus, the referendum was opposed among activists and CSOs as well as international actors, including the Venice Commission.

Presently, even though the situation in the country is stable, the causes of earlier unrests are yet to be adequately addressed, the political legitimacy is often challenged, and protests are frequent. Corruption is pervasive, and many citizens have lost faith in the Government’s ability to provide essential services, justice, and security. Whereas the political opposition remains fragmented, potential issues in the social-economic sphere can trigger the growth of protests in the most inferior part of the population, which is immediately taken advantage by the opposition.

The core goals of the country policy were defined in the National Strategy for Sustainable Development (NSSD) for 2013-2017 approved by the Presidential Decree in January 2013. The Kyrgyz Government developed the Programme of Transition to Sustainable Development and the Government’s Action Plan for the period up to 2017, which in content correspond to priorities and directions, as reflected in the NSSD.

Taking this background into account, the Presidential Election held in October 2017 was a weighty target of KESP-II. It should have ensured another peaceful transfer of power from one elected President to another.

## Previous Electoral Assistance by UNDP in the Kyrgyz Republic

Multiple voting leads to citizens’ mistrust towards results of elections. Therefore, the previous projects also contributed to eliminating this phenomenon. Mainly, two representative projects relating elections were implemented by UNDP before KESP-II started: “the Kyrgyz Election Support Project (KESP-I)” and “the Automation of Voters’ Identification Process during the Electoral Cycle in 2015-2017 (Automation Project)”.

The primary objective of KESP-I was initially to support to the electoral processes of the 2010 Constitutional Referendum, the 2010 Parliamentary Election and the 2011 Presidential Election. The project focused on the three outputs: 1) strengthening the national electoral institutions and processes; 2) increased and inclusive participation in the elective process; and 3) enabling a peaceful and secure environment for elections. These were implemented in close cooperation with CEC, parliament, national courts, law-enforcement agencies, NGOs and voters and continued for two years from May 2010. The project fund was provided in the following Table 1.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| EU | EUR 1,450,000 |
| Japan | USD 350,000 |
| Austria | EUR 250,000 |
| Germany | EUR 200,000 |
| UK Aid/DFID | USD 100,000 |
| Soros Foundation Kyrgyzstan | USD 50,000 |
| UNDP | USD 370,580 |

Table 1: The project fund of KESP-I

With this assistance, CEC developed the Unified Voter Registration Information Management System (UVRIMS). The introduction of UVRIMS ensured smooth electronic interoperability provision of the citizens’ biometric data which SRS managed so that the electoral management bodies could unitedly manage voters’ and management’s information by using the list avoiding human errors. Eventually, KESP-I was extended until 2012 to intervene the local elections held in 2012, a voter registration software was developed, and the capacity building activities were implemented.

In addition, mainly CEC and subsidiary commissions received the considerable support in terms of resources and expertise of conducting elections. On the other hand, the other relevant organizations, including parliament, state ministries, law-enforcement agencies, security forces, political parties, NGOs, and media also benefited by taking the wide-ranging training workshops to enhance their knowledge, skills, and responsibility for increasing the voters’ satisfaction degree. Moreover, through the voter awareness campaigns by using media announcements, posters, flyers and meetings with NGO-activists, the general public deepened their understanding of the voters’ right and electoral processes.

Overall, KESP-I succeeded in achieving its main goals outlined in the Project Document (ProDoc) to support the vital electoral events outlined above. Due to a short timeframe, the intervention for the referendum held in 2010 which ushered the new Constitution was limited. Even so, the newly-proposed Constitution was approved by the referendum signaling the return of the country order. Also, the impact of provided resources and expertise for the 2010 Parliamentary Elections and 2011 Presidential election was significant. These two elections allowed the establishment of legitimate legislative and executive powers. Domestic and international observers evaluated that these electoral events met international standards mostly in terms of the credible election processes and played an important role to stabilize the country after the turmoil in 2010.

Concerning the Automation Project, computerizing the voter identification process has excluded a human factor which eventually led to improved election administration and eliminated some malpractices and fraudulent behavior. The main object of the project was to provide IT equipment to CEC and SRS, offering capacity development so that relevant staff could use the ICT effectively for conducting elections. Furthermore, it was to ensure exercising citizens’ electoral rights and guarantee peaceful, free and fair elections. To achieve these, UNDP provided modern equipment to read voters’ fingerprints and automate the process of identifying voters at polling stations.

The Government of Japan funded this project through a grant aid programme of the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA). In total, CEC and SRS received materials as Table 2.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Products** | **Number** |
| Laptops | 5,000 |
| Fingerprint scanners | 5,950 |
| Server and network equipment | One set |
| Thermal printers | 5,000 |
| UPS | 3,000 |
| Wall-mounted monitors | 2,500 |

Table 2: materials which CEC and SRS received from the project

In addition, UNDP, with receiving financial cooperation from the Embassy of Switzerland ($ 532,232) and Japan ($ 75,000), provided technical training of trainers for CEC and SRS staff so that they could use the new ICT equipment and Automatic Ballot Boxes (ABB, introduced by KOICA). By the end of the project, 9,417 trainers and specialists were trained, and many information and training materials were published for the training and at polling stations.

As a result, 1,630,122 voters in the 2015 Parliamentary Elections, 1,190,752 voters in the 2016 Constitutional Referendum, and 1,697,868 voters in the 2017 Presidential Election benefited from the automated system. What is worthy to mention is that the 2015 Parliamentary Elections was successfully conducted and fair and open with the use of the new technologies, and the effective utilization of them in elections is acknowledged as the first experience in Central Asia. Moreover, in not only the parliamentary elections but also the 2016 Constitutional Referendum, Municipal Elections in 2016 (twice) and 2017 (three times), and 2017 Presidential Election, the automation system worked effectively and efficiently. The project contributed to eliminating multiple voting phenomena which were critical issues that led to citizens’ mistrust towards results of elections.

## Other International Electoral Support in the Kyrgyz Republic

The Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE) facilitated a public dialogue entitled “Strengthening the electoral system of the Kyrgyz Republic” in December 2013 with the US Agency for International Development (USAID), International Foundation for Election Systems (IFES) and National Committee for Sustainable Development. USAID supported an IFES electoral assistance project. The IFES project focused on training and capacity building of the election commission, voter and civic education, outreach to grassroots organizations and support to national observers. NGOs are also active in the Kyrgyz Republic. For instance, the National Democratic Institute (NDI) carried out programmes to develop democratic institutions, including the parliament, CSOs, and political parties and the International Republican Institute (IRI) worked for democratic governance, political party development, and civic engagement.

## Key Stakeholders

**Donors**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Government of Demark | Denmark financially contributed to KESP-II for one year from December 2014. The assistance was mostly for Component 2 and some activities of Component 1. |
| Government of Switzerland | Switzerland financially contributed to KESP-II from December 2015 to the end of the project. The assistance was mostly for Component 3 of the project and many activities relating to Component 1. |

**Counterparts**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Central Commission for Elections and Referenda (CEC) | CEC is a permanent state body and responsible for providing preparation to and holding of elections and referenda in the Kyrgyz Republic. KESP-II firmly proceeded with this entity. |
| State Registration Service (SRS) | SRS is an entity under the Kyrgyz Government and implements the state-wide population registry introducing biometric e-ID cards, and the technological system has been utilized since 2015 to identify voters. |

**Partners**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Arysh | This local NGO mainly works with settlers/internal migrants in vulnerable, poorly developed and fewer infrastructure areas around Bishkek. They established and trained self-help-groups in income generating activities, business planning and lobbying and advocacy. |
| Coalition for Democracy and Civil Society (CDCS) | CDCS is an NGO and has contributed to build a civil society, strengthen the rule of law and protect human rights in the Kyrgyz Republic. They conducted a long-term observation for the 2017 Presidential Election and reported the results. |
| Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE) | OSCE approaches to security that encompasses politico-military, economic and environmental, and human aspects and addresses a wide range of security-related concerns. They have observed and evaluate elections, including the 2015 Parliamentary Elections and 2017 Presidential Election, to assess the extent in the Kyrgyz Republic. |
| Promotank | Promotank was established in 2009 as a consulting company and has worked with business partners, government institutions, civil society and international development partners. They joined KESP-II to support the promotion of electoral disputes resolution. |
| Taza Shailoo | This association was formed in 2007 to bring together all related stakeholders with an aim to ensure transparent, free and fair election processes in the Kyrgyz Republic. The network includes 19 NGOs which have promoted democratic reforms. |

# Context

## Description of Project

Through KESP-II, which implemented in partnership with CEC and SRS, UNDP provided technical assistance for improvements of the electoral administration bodies’ capacities and consequently led better-managed and more credible elections.

In 2014, the ProDoc of KESP-II was drafted to support the Kyrgyz authorities for conducting democratic, free and transparent elections after being requested from the Government of the Kyrgyz Republic. The primary project goals were that the Kyrgyz authorities undertook appropriately the upcoming elections, which the new ICT equipment (e.g. voters’ identification equipment, automatic ballot boxes) were introduced, and that the electoral cycle was free, fair and peaceful.

KESP-II was initially envisioned to last for three years (2014-2017) with the three Components.

* Component 1: Advancement of ICT introduction into the electoral management process
* Component 2: Institutional communication, Civic, and voter education campaigns
* Component 3: Electoral Dispute Resolution (EDR) and electoral security training

From December 2014 to December 2015, the Government of Denmark financially assisted KESP-II, particularly Component 2 as well as some activities of Component 1. From December 2015 until the end of the project term, the Government of Switzerland covered mostly Component 3 and partly Component 1. The details of each component will be described later.

Overall, KESP-II achieved success in its goals to support the critical elective events within the outlined Components. In spite of the short timeframe and other related-hectic circumstances, the results could meet all the requests from the Kyrgyz Government, including allocation of necessary resources and expertise to CEC, the other national institutions and NGO/CSOs in the area of electoral subjects. There were several concerns raised by different experts and stakeholders (both on the local and external level) regarding the 2015 Parliamentary Elections. These concerns were mostly about security issues before, during, and after the elections. In addition, organizational/logistical factors related to the proper use of the new equipment to identify voters’ biometric data and ABB gave cause for anxiety. Any failure of the equipment or other events may have brought a severe conflict among involved actors and stakeholders. However, these kinds of worries were unfounded at last.

It should be noted that the contributions to the delivery of KESP-II by the Governments of Denmark and Switzerland were substantial. For example, the intensive voter education and campaigns on elections and elective procedures done by the support of Denmark raised public awareness. Raising voters’ knowledge was essential to introduce the biometric system, which was a substantive part of voter education campaigns, as well as general information, including the way of voting. A number of communication elements such as audio-visual materials were also provided to CEC through KESP-II.

The contribution of Switzerland was also significant in terms of the capacity development of law-enforcement, Electoral Management Bodies (EMB) and voters for EDR, prevention of conflicts and security. Additionally, Switzerland provided meaning support to large-scale training for EMB specialists for proper use of the identification equipment as well as the purchase of additional equipment to improve the voter identification process and registration system of SRS.

## Project Administration and Management

A Project Coordinator (PC) was recruited in early March 2015 by UNDP RBEC funds. The daily project management was implemented by the UNDP Programme Management Unit (PMU), where the PC managed KESP-II under the supervision of the UNDP Democratic Governance Programme, Chief of Dimension, and PMU National Manager. The UNDP Country Office (CO) assured the entire project implementation. Notably, the CO’s assistance was distinguished during the large-scale procurements for the 2015 Parliamentary Elections. The UNDP senior management, including the RR, Deputy RR, and heads of Operations and Procurement, provided essential help during the critical implementation phases assuring the targeted outputs and deadlines. From October 2017, one UNV consultant was hired to give more professional opinions to the project.

The project Steering Committee (SC), consisting of representatives from the CEC, SRS, donors, Presidential Administration, and those who were fully-fledged voting members, provided the general direction. The Steering Committee held three times during Project implementation cycle: on March 27 , 2015, on December 7, 2015, and on 18 February 2016. At that time, OSCE, Korea International Cooperation Agency (KOICA), IFES, USAID, IRI, NDI, and others had their observer status. The UNDP Resident Representative (RR) and CEC chairperson co-chaired the SC meetings irregularly to assess the project progress, approve the Annual Work Plan (AWP) and revise the AWP when needed. Along with this, during 2015-2017 electoral cycle UNDP being represented by KESP-2 has been a leading agency among donor organizations in implementing preoperational activities and in cooperation with CEC and SRS.

## Donors and Project Budget

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| 2015-2016 AWP budget | | **USD 1,586,735** |
| **Total allocated resources** | | **USD 1,586,735** |
| UNDP RBEC | Component 1 | USD 100,000 |
| Component 1-3 | USD 141,872 |
| Switzerland | Component 1, 3 | USD **1,198,947.00** |

Table 3: The AWP Budget 2015-2018

Table 3 shows the KESP-II budget from 2015 to 2018. In the fiscal year of 2015, the project played a leading role of the donor coordination for all electoral assistance in the Kyrgyz Republic. In addition to organizing meetings with the donors and technical assistance providers, KESP-II developed an online “Matrix of Donor Assistance Kyrgyz Election Support Project”[[2]](#footnote-2), which charted election-related activities/budgets of the main donors and implementers of the electoral cycle 2015-2017 in the Kyrgyz Republic. During the project implementation period, this Matrix was regularly updated on the UNDP Website.

The activities in 2016 were planned with the unspent balance of USD 398,258. In early 2016, a no-cost extension of the existing Agreement was approved between UNDP and the Government of Switzerland to extend it until the end of April 2018. However, after this event, additional USD 210,527 in 2016 and UND 105,263 in 2017 were granted by the Swiss Government to purchase more equipment for the voter identification process of SRS.

## Expenditure Report

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Year** | **Expenses as per CDR** |
| 2015 | 484,949.27 |
| 2016 | 605,379.37 |
| 2017 | 50,951.41 |
| 2018 | 57,666.95 |
| **Total:** | **1,198,947.00** |

For more details please see Annex 1

## Communication and Visibility Measures

KESP-II placed great emphasis on identifying and increasing the visibility of the Governments of Denmark and Switzerland as the major contributors to the project. Specifically, their logos together with the UNDP logo were printed on all visual materials (e.g. banners, stickers, press-releases, manuals) and other related project presentation documents to acknowledge our contribution and efforts.

Besides the measures mentioned above, the project was introduced in the UNDP Website[[3]](#footnote-3) and the other communication tools of UNDP which were distributed in public.

# Activities and Achieved Results

Receiving the financial assistance from Denmark and Switzerland, the support complied with the three components: 1) Advancement of ICT introduction into the electoral management process; 2) Institutional communication, civic and voter education campaigns; and 3) Electoral Dispute Resolution (EDR) and elective security training. The assistance from the Government of Denmark was mainly used for Component 2, and the Government of Switzerland for Component 3. Both governments partially funded for Component 1. Overall, KESP-II succeeded to play an important role in developing capacities of the EMBs in the Kyrgyz Republic and contributed to conduct the well-managed and credible elections. This section describes regarding project activities and their achieved results by following each component.

## Component 1: Advancement of ICT introduction into the electoral management process

During the project period of 2015, there was an urgent request of training to 170 trainers and 12,500 specialists of CEC and SRS for proper use of the electoral equipment. Following discussions with the Embassy of Switzerland in July 2015, KESP-II received the second tranche of USD 532,257 for this matter.

**Activity: Strengthening CEC and SRS’s capacity and resource to conduct elections acting in conformity with the international standards.**

* + 1. Financial Support to CEC and SRS for Training

Under the Harmonized Approach to Cash Transfers (HACT)[[4]](#footnote-4), in 2015 the financial support was provided to CEC and SRS to conduct a nationwide capacity building training as Table 4.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
|  | CEC | SRS |
| Number of Participants | 2,650 | 9,800 |
| Participants | Trainers, Specialists | Specialists, IT experts |
| Contents | How to use of ABBs (Picture 1), the new elective procedures/processes as per the amended legislation | How to use the identification equipment in elections |

Table 4: Overview of the capacity building training for CEC and SRS staff

Regarding the HACT for CEC, the agreement was exchanged between Center of Electoral Technologies (CET[[5]](#footnote-5)) of the CEC and UNDP.

Furthermore, in February 2016, KESP-II financially supported to train CEC specialists for the Local Council Elections conducted in six cities and 21 village councils in March 2016. In total, 19 trainers, 60 IT experts, and CEC 2,348 specialists participated. They acquired the proper way to use and maintain ABBs as well as the elective procedures and processes. The fund was prepared through CET by signing the Letter of Agreement (LoA).

 Picture 1: Training for the CEC staff

* + 1. Providing Stationery and Training Materials to SRS

Stationery and training materials (e.g. manuals for operators, banners, and leaflets) and 3,000 copies of a training video were provided to SRS so that the IT specialists could use for training. A number of temporary (approximately how many?) officers were also trained for the 2015 Parliamentary Election.

* + 1. Digital Equipment for the SRS’s Information Registry System

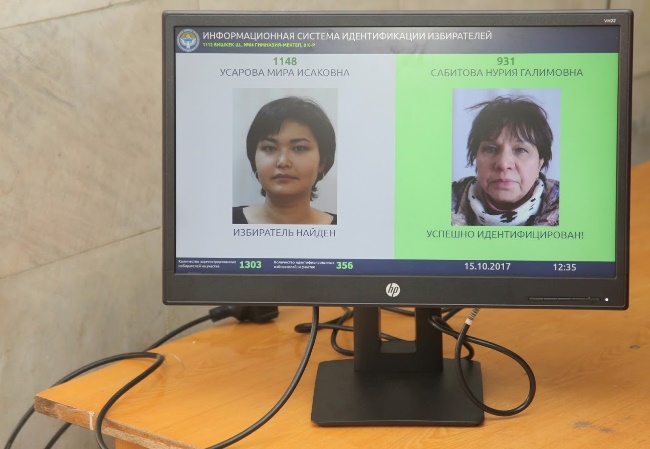
In June 2016, the following equipment (Table 5) was purchased to improve the SRS’s automatic information registry system, including “Register Office (ZAGS)”, “Passport”, and “Information Bureau”.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **#** | **Products** | **Quantity** |
|  | ADSL Modem TP-Link TD-8840T | 20 |
|  | Cable organizer SHIP J606-2 | 5 |
|  | Ethernet cable NEOMAX NM10001 | 35 |
|  | Patch Panel SHIP P197-24A UTP | 11 |
|  | Cable duct 140m | 140 |
|  | Cable duct 300m | 300 |
|  | Matrix Printer Epson PLQ20 Passbook | 100 |
|  | Cable DTECH VGA CV0017 Male to Male 1.8M Black | 150 |
|  | Router BOARD Mikrotik RB750R2 | 110 |
|  | LED TV 50’’ Samsung | 5 |
|  | Patch Cord SHIP S6025RD0100-P | 240 |
|  | Printer Laser Canon LBP6030 | 70 |
|  | Telecommunication cabinet SHIP 5412.01.100 | 1 |
|  | Telecommunication cabinet SHIP 5415.01.100 | 1 |

Table 5: Equipment purchased by KESP-II to SRS

* + 1. Improvement of Biometric Voter Identification

In September 2016, SRS requested 5,000 webcams (Picture 2) for face detection to match voters’ face and personal information from Machine Readable Zone (MRZ[[6]](#footnote-6)) on their passport/ID card. This facial identification technology (Picture 3) allows reducing interference by staff into the digital data manually in case the first identification process (i.e. reading fingerprints) fails. For this purpose, the Swiss Government provided USD 210,527. In its turn, UNDP initiated the development of technical specification with SRS. The webcams were, at the beginning of November 2016, delivered to SRS and 2,490 precincts nationwide. In parallel, 5,500 racks for the webcams were also provided.



Picture 2: Webcam provided by the Swiss Government

Picture 3: Face authentication system

* + 1. Renovation of the SRS Capacity Development Center

KESP-II supported to reconstruct the SRS Capacity Development Center (Picture 4). While several international organizations, including UNDP, KOICA, and JICA, have introduced modern ICT equipment to CEC and SRS for the voters’ identification and coting system, KESP-II focused on providing training for the capacity development of officials. Through these opportunities, they became proficient in the use of the new stuff and implementation of smooth elections. This, however, is a little part of necessary training, and more officials need to be qualified for conducting appropriate polls held in the future and better public services in general. Consequently, the project decided to support the renovation of the center in cooperation with OSCE Kyrgyzstan which provided ICT equipment to the center while KESP-II supported to renovate the facility. The project term was initially three years which meant until December 2017, yet eventually, extended until the end of April 2018 due to the uncompleted construction work of the center. This request of the no-cost extension was accepted by the Embassy of Switzerland on 19 December 2017.

 Picture 4: The SRS Capacity Development Center

**Achieved Results**

The 2015 Parliamentary Elections in the Kyrgyz Republic brought social tension because they were critical and the most significant nationwide elections during this electoral period. The main feature of the polls was undoubtedly the first opportunity to introduce the electronic technologies in the electoral processes. Since then, the use of ICT in the recent elections has been successful in various aspects.

* It signaled the political will to improve elections in the country.
* It developed the whole electoral processes, including better preparation of the voter lists by SRS.
* It ensured more free, fair and transparent voting processes.

Data information, which was consolidated in the SRS’s Registry System, allowed creating reliable population data and voters’ lists within the framework of the Unified State Population Registry.

Eventually, some international observers, including OSCE and the Coalition for Democracy and Civil Society (CDCS), assessed that, in general, the 2015 Parliamentary Elections complied with the international standards. CEC and SRS were closely cooperating with the voter identification at polling stations. Personnel of both institutions was qualified in operating the ICT equipment which allowed voters’ identification via fingerprint (Picture 5) or facial recognition and detected to avoid multiple voting.

 Picture 5: Fingerprint recognition system

The viability and quality of elections directly depended on the fact how quickly and efficiently the EMB staff could work with the newly-introduced ICT and identification equipment. One technical mistake or failure caused by the stuff at a polling station might have disrupted the voting process or even led to a cancellation of the election itself in the country (e.g. a case in Kenya, 2013). Possibly, the cancellation may have brought a conflict among electoral actors, instability in the country as well as discredit on the equipment. Realizing the importance of the Parliamentary Elections in 2015 and due to the extreme urgency, UNDP approached several donors to obtain a prompt response to the proposed request. As a result, by receiving additional financial support from the Government of Switzerland, the national EMBs could prepare those who worked with the ICT equipment during the elections promptly.

Needless to say, CEC must be transparent in its decision making and open for cooperation with media, parties and civil society, and has invested in modern technologies over the last few years. In association with SRS, CEC produced credible inclusive voters’ rolls which were significant progress because the previous lists were often incorrect and led to multiple voting. With the assistance by UNDP, CEC established the CET, which assured that the investments of the technologies were sustainable and maintained.

"By introducing ICT and identification equipment in the electoral process, we eliminated many gaps and weaknesses in the elective system. Ballot stuffing is already in the past", said the former SRS chair, Mr. Tayirbek Sarpashev during the handover/opening ceremony of the identification equipment and the call center on 2 December 2016.

## Component 2: Institutional communication, civic and voter education campaigns

Elections are the hallmark of representative democracy, and the people’s choices about leaders and policy are the priority. However, their processes are also competitive, unleashing tensions and conflict that, if not constructively dealt, could destabilize the fabric of a country and society. It is, therefore, essential that the media play an active role in ensuring that such disputes and struggle are minimized or eliminated. The media can do this by sensitizing the electorate and the rest of the citizenry on the proper conduct of elections.

Component 2 was carried out with the financial assistance of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Denmark from December 2014 to December 2015. One of the objectives of this component was to provide technical assistance and expertise to mainly CEC so that they could meet immediate tasks to conduct the 2015 Parliamentary Elections and the others. CEC was facing a lack of human resources and planning management at that moment, and so, the development of rules and organizational framework and the personnel capacity building were critical in respective areas. Also, after improving these internal matters of CEC, they needed full dissemination to the populace. Consequently, KESP-II set up the three pillars: 1) the elective procedures and legislation, 2) institutional communication and information, and 3) voter education and public awareness campaign. In this section, the activities will be split into two, Activity 1 implemented by CEC and Activity 2 done through NGOs.

**Activity 1: Strengthening CEC’s capacity and resource of communication to answer citizens’ high expectation for democracy and credibility and enhancing the operation of the new technologies and equipment.**

* 1. Developing and training the CEC Media Unit for external communication

To improve the CEC’s external interface, because EMBs needed planning and a comprehensive communication strategy, KESP-II dispatched a local expert to advise them. As a result, “the CEC Media Strategy” was developed before the 2015 Parliamentary Elections. Its basic concept was CEC to create an open, professional and trust relationship with the media and public.

The strategy’s tasks:

1. Constructing a network with media and increasing the flow and quality of information about the electoral system and procedures;
2. Raising public awareness about the upcoming elections;
3. Making an impression of CEC as an open, independent and professional state entity;
4. Improving transparency of EMBs;
5. Preventing conflict situations related to low awareness of parties, voters and the electoral process;
6. Cooperating with actors in the electoral processes and timely responding to requests, inquiries, complaints and messages from the media, political parties and voters through the media and social networks; and
7. Improving external communication by developing and introducing new tools to communicate with citizens.

Following the CEC Media Strategy, a joint training workshop was held for the respective management and public relations officers of the CEC, SRS, Government Offices and National Security Committee in July 2015 and approximately 23 officials participated. A general idea of the training was to provide them with the necessary knowledge. They needed to interact with each other effectively avoiding contradictions or duplications in joint or separate activities when, for example, various information on electoral issues was released, or a public event in the pre-electoral cycle was organized. The former deputy chair of CEC, Gulnara Dzhurabaeva, was invited to the training to announce required information on the issues that CEC was facing at that moment.

To implement provisions of the newly-developed strategy, strengthening social/institutional communication and the quality of the CEC press service, KESP-II dispatched another expert joined the CEC from July to November of 2015. The expert’s deliverables were:

1. Strengthening cooperation between CEC, media, and public;
2. Intensifying appropriate effects of CEC’s social media, publication of materials;
3. Monitoring reactions and criticism in the media and social/public events;
4. Following up CEC staff working for the communication with media and public; and
5. Publishing press releases, communication materials with the other national institutions on electoral issues.

It should be noted that, after the assignment with UNDP, this expert was hired by CEC as chief of the Department of External Relations and Communication.

* 1. Training local journalists for ideal ethics, information, and reports

To understand the crucial role of media during the election period, 35 journalists from local mass media were invited to participate in the training (Kyrgyz Tele & Radio, Birinchi Radio, IA “Kyrgtag”, Akipress, 24.kg, “Vechernyi Bishkek”, Azzatyk-Radio Liberty, Vesti.lg, 5 Canal, De Facto, Erkin-Too, IA “Interfax”, IA “Reiter”, IA “Kabar”, “Super Info”).

* 1. Information and Resource Center at the intention of the media

To strengthen the transparency of CEC and for better and regular update of CEC’s activity, Information and Resource Center (IRC) was imperative and established in CEC in September 2015. IRC is equipped with 12 computers, 12 sets of furniture, one TV set, a free Wi-Fi system and so forth. Journalists and those who were interested in the work of CEC could visit IRC, place themselves in front of the CEC meeting hall, and follow the whole processes on the monitor.

* 1. Establishment of “Call Center 119” for CEC and SRS

To answer citizens’ questions on elections, documentation, and public services in general, KESP-II established the Call Center 119 for both CEC and SRS. In 2015, the necessary equipment, including computers, IT equipment, software, and furniture for ten operators, was purchased with a local IT specialist was hired in July-December 2015. Due to several technical reasons and long way coordination with SRS, the purchase of the software was delayed, and so, performing the full-function as a call center was behind schedule. Nevertheless, eventually, in September 2016, it started functioning fully before the constitutional referenda and local elections held in late 2016. The official opening of the Center was participated by the Swiss Ambassador and UN RC/UNDP RR.

All services were available in both Kyrgyz and Russian languages.

**Achieved Results on Activity 1**

* 1. The CEC Media Unit

First, the newly-developed CEC Media Strategy led to a decrease of conflicts during the election campaigns; emerging disputes were quickly resolved. By the existence of this proactive strategy, more coherent and reliable information about the elections were distributed to citizens. While, in general, the public tends to be influenced by mass media, the strategy led the press to broadcast fair and precise information closely communicating with CEC. In this regard, the CEC Media Unit changed their mind with responsibility and exhibited leadership by receiving the expert’s support. The media training for CEC personnel helped overcome the apparent gap in communication between local media and CEC, particularly on the new aspects of the elective procedure and legislation.

* 1. The local media training

During the training, distinct lack of media relation officers’ awareness regarding legal aspects as well as general concepts of elections was exposed. However, journalists of local media were trained to know peculiarities of the electoral processes, serve as watchdogs, and provide proper information and results of the elections using the upgraded website, information from IRC in Bishkek and Osh, and the call center. Through the training:

1. CEC presented the Media Strategy and new processes to media so that the journalists could raise their awareness about the upcoming elections;
2. CEC, media, and the national stakeholders created long-last contacts so that media could be continuously informed about the decisions taken by CEC in a consultative and inclusive manner; and
3. The governmental institutions and media established a common ground for future cooperation.

The improvement of media means that the public can receive more consistent information which is vital for conducting fair and transparent elections and creating the democratic society.

According to a post-training survey, the respondents judged that the training was useful and hoped for more similar events and claimed as follows.

* The importance of balanced coverage of political parties
* New aspects of the electoral legislation
* Journalists’ role and right on the election day
* Overall standards on journalists’ liabilities and rights in the process.

Indeed, before/during/after each election, the substantial improvement in the quality of news report was seen. Consequently, more extensive media training was taken into consideration to plan the next phase of activities for not only journalists but also the editorial staff.

* 1. The IRC in CEC

Information resource center was established to provide more transparency for the work of CEC. Journalists who visit CEC meetings are provided with good internet WI-FI connection, 12 computer with access to Internet and a monitor to with the CEC plenary meetings.

* 1. The Call Center 119

According to SRS, during the Constitutional Referendum and local elections held in 2016, the call center processed approximately 200,000 calls. From 1 September to 16 October 2017, before the Presidential Election, the Center operated 128,482 calls, and about 90% of all inquiries were about elections, including the procedures and voter lists. On the other hand, since 2015, the center received 546,435 calls which were different issues such as personal information registration, public service, and so forth.

The new software system allowed to increase the number of calls, and the Center could respond to citizens through its online consultation service.

**Activity 2. Conducting nationwide information and communication campaign on democratic elections, civic education, and an introduction of ICT**

1. Voter and Public Education Campaigns

When new electoral legislation is adopted with provisions related to the massive introduction of ICT, it is essential for voters to know about the voting policies and procedures. Therefore, voter education during elections is a critical element to build voters’ confidence in the newly-introduced technologies. A dearth of information during an electoral preparatory period can cause citizens’ distrust and declining voter turnout. In other words, well-organized public awareness campaigns can open information widely and encourage voters’ participation, thereby reduce barriers of elections.

Taking into consideration all the above mentioned, an extensive voter education campaign was vital and conducted across the country by KESP-II jointly with some local NGOs. This aimed at informing the public about the electoral processes through workshops, round-table meetings, various information materials, and TV/radio programmes. “Taza Shailoo”, “Arysh”, and “Coalition for Democracy and Civil Society (CDCS)” were selected to work towards implementation of public information and voter education.

**Association “Taza Shailoo”**

An association of the legal entities, Taza Shailoo (means “fair elections”), was formed in August 2007 to bring together related stakeholders and improve the election processes in the Kyrgyz Republic. Its network includes 19 NGOs throughout the country. In 2014, Taza Shailoo expanded its mission. The association’s goals are to 1) ensure transparent, free and fair elections and referenda in the Kyrgyz Republic; 2) promote democratic reforms aiming at development of democratic institutions; and 3) contribute to the dynamic growth of the country as a politically stable state where the propriety of human rights and the rule of law is assured.

Activities by Taza Shailoo in KESP-II:

1. During the 2015 Parliamentary Elections, they provided an expert to conduct training for CEC, judges, and law-enforcement on the new electoral legislation. Also, the association led a country-ranged public information campaign about the electoral processes and EDR.
2. From September to October 2015, 40 village meetings (Table 6) for 1,356 people in all provinces were organized to inform voters about the upcoming elections, elective procedures and processes. What the association has regional offices was one of the advantages in this regard.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Oblasts** | **No. of Meetings** |
| Chui | 10 |
| Naryn | 5 |
| Issyk-Kul | 5 |
| Talas | 5 |
| Osh | 7 |
| Jalal-Abad | 5 |
| Batken | 3 |

Table 6: The Number of Meetings in Villages

1. 20 public information activities and flash-mobs were organized with participation of the young generations during July-September 2015. During the campaigns, 90,000 copies (45,000 copies of a booklet and 45,000 copies of a leaflet) of information/communication materials about the elective procedures and rights of the voters were distributed.
2. Taza-Shailoo’s IRCs was established to advise voters and public about the elective procedure, processes and voters’ rights in the cities of Bishkek and Osh.

**An NGO “Arysh”**

Arysh (means “rhythm”) is a well-known local NGO which works for mainly “novostroikas[[7]](#footnote-7)” around Bishkek. Their primary activity is to form self-help-groups and train them in income generating activities, business planning and lobbying and advocacy. Arysh also assists the groups in claiming their rights and establish a dialogue with local authorities about infrastructure in settlements.

Activities by Arysh in KESP-II:

1. A massive awareness campaign in vulnerable areas (near Dordoi Bazaar) concerning information (Picture 6)

* The Number of immediate beneficiaries: approx. 235,000 people
* Covered areas: 30 settlements in Archa-Beshik, Ak-Bosogo, Ak-Orgo, Ak-Ordo, Aska-Tash, Altyn-Ordo, Ala-Too, Ak-Bata, Altyn-Beshik, Ak-Zhar, Altyn-Kazyk, Adilet, Bakai-Ata, Dordoi-1, Dordoi-2, Dostuk, Zhenish, Kara-Jygach, Lalys-Ordo, Colm, Keremet, Kasim, Kelechek, Kyrman, Madani Tynchtyk, Ruhiyyih-Muras, Orok, Muras-Ordo, Ene-Sai

1. Yard-to-yard visits in the settlements

* The Number of immediate beneficiaries: approx. 25,350 residents (approx. 75,150 citizens, taking into account three voters in a family on average).

1. Making and distributing communication and information materials for instructors

* Contents: the new elective procedures and rules, voter lists with the application form, polling stations opened in the settlements, and EDR
* Number of materials: 115 copies for 100 instructors

1. Small-sized leaflets for further distribution to instruct citizens in the target areas

* Contents: the inclusion in the list of voters, EDR
* Number of leaflets: 20,000 copies

A grant was provided for the activities above mentioned from the project to Arysh directly from UNDP?.

Picture 6: Representatives of Arysh during a yard detour

**An NGO “Coalition for Democracy and Civil Society”**

CDCS was founded in 1998 to contribute to the process of transparency and fairness of elections in the Kyrgyz Republic and has organized qualitative, objective and independent monitoring of the pre-election process, the election day and summing up the results using its extensive regional network. This organization is made up of over 1,000 individual members, united in 61 primary cells and a network of over 130 partner organizations.

During the electoral period 2015-2017, CDCS actively cooperated to the project with the following activities.

1. Developing various types of materials and conducted training in Kyrgyz, Russian and Uzbek languages both for law-enforcement and voters and local citizens.
2. During July-September 2015 run a country-range campaign, which focused on electoral education, including EDR, security issues during elections, new electoral legislation and procedures.

* Target: law enforcement, prosecution authorities
* Number of participants: 929 (812 police officers, 117 officials of the Public Prosecutor’s Office)
* Number of workshops held in this campaign: 26 times in all oblasts of the country
* Throughout the country:
  1. Development of Communication Tools (radio/televised programmes, poster stickers, leaflets/pamphlets, etc.)

In 2015, communication materials in Kyrgyz and Russian (Table 7) and so forth were produced by the Project directly to both SRS and CEC:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Materials** | **Number of Copies** |
| Video and audio[[8]](#footnote-8) | 15 |
| Instruction posters for voters | 3,000 |
| Information stickers | 2,500 |
| Posters about “Video & Photo Prohibited” | 2,500 |
| Instruction posters for international observers about their rights and obligations | 3,000 |
| Booklets about valid contents of bulletins | 5,000 |
| Labels with each polling station’s number | 5,000 |

Table 7: Information materials which KESP-II produced through activities by CDCS

**Achieved Results on Activity 2**

Component 2 and a part of Component 1 were implemented between 2014 to 2015 and aimed at the particular success of the 2015 Parliamentary Election which was one of the most significant elections in the electoral period. Improvements of environment for conducting the vote were taken priority. From this viewpoint, although some minor technical issues relating the equipment occurred, overall, it can be said that the project succeeded in supporting the critical electoral events, including the 2015 Parliamentary Election, because these elections were concluded peacefully and smoothly.

1. Voter and Public Education Campaigns

While CEC with its subsidiary commissions was the main counterpart and received the most substantial amount of support, the other stakeholders such as judicial/law enforcement agencies, NGOs, media, also benefited through the project activities.

First, it is crucial for national public servants, including judges, prosecutors and security forces to acquire the latest knowledge and skills about elections in the country appropriately. In training implemented by Taza Shailoo, they obtained information about the new electoral legislation, processes, and EDR. Also, through the village meetings and public information activities, citizens. The IRC advised voters and public about the electoral procedure, processes and voters’ rights.

Second, through the awareness campaigns organized by Arysh, about 75,150 citizens were directly/indirectly informed about the forthcoming parliamentary election, legislation, and procedures. For example, people could become aware of:

* Venues of polling station by territorial division
* The systems referring to the voter lists
* Mechanism to protect their right to vote in case an electoral dispute occurs.

One of the reasons why this campaign was needed in the settlements around Bishkek was that numerous vulnerable-internal migrants had moved from remote provinces to near the capital for work. They use neither the Internet nor TV/Radio and do not read a newspaper. Therefore, it was important that the efforts of the project directly reached these people with the information about the upcoming elections. In this regard, CEC opened additional 46 polling stations in the settlements (39 in Bishkek and 7 in Osh) so that more voters could use their right to vote.

Third, although CDCS ran a country-range campaign focusing on electoral education about EDR, security issues during elections, new electoral legislation and procedures to law enforcement officers, prosecution authorities, the differences of activities between CDCS and Taza Shailoo are the following: CDCS was more focusing on the work with law-enforcement while Taza-Shailoo was focusing on the work with citizens.

Last, each organization created a significant number of materials about the election (e.g. TV/radio announcements, posters, flyers) for the voter education activities. As a result, principally people who met with the CDCS’s activities could obtain the appropriate knowledge about the elective procedure, processes and the voting right.

* 1. Development of Communication Tools

However, the use of ICT continuously requires up-to-date equipment, knowledge and understanding among both EMBs, and voters. Besides the fact that EMBs employees had to go through an in-depth learning process to proper work and maintain the new equipment, it is also necessary to inform voters how to use and vote with the latest equipment and to provide information about new developments and amendments in the law, and so on. Thus, one of the most important elements of the project within Component 2 was an implementation of voter information and education campaigns with regard to the introduction of ICT. The success, which ICT brought to the electoral processes in the Kyrgyz Republic has a significant contribution from the Government of Denmark and people by the resources provided for the preparation of elections of 2015.

The major observations of the elections in 2015, within activities of Component 2, is that during elections, especially with the introduction of new technologies and substantive amendments to the legislation, such in case of the Kyrgyz Republic, a robust information campaign is always vital. Voters often do not know where, when and how to vote. Diffusion of correct information about all stages of the electoral process targeting, in particular, the introduction of ICT is essential for the credibility of the entire process and to enable the electorate to understand how the voting process will work. Therefore, on the eve of the presidential election in 2017, essential attention will be paid to the organization of a public voter education campaigns. Though the primary responsibility for informing and educating voters rests with the EMBs, the work of EMBs in this country should be supported further to conduct the future elections even better and make it more free, fair, and transparent.

## Component 3: Electoral Dispute Resolution and electoral security training

The benefits of a smoothly run technical process can be jeopardized if peace and security are threatened. To tackle EDR, the project cooperated with two NGO’s: CDCS and Promotank. Component 3 aimed at strengthening relevant national institutions’ capacity about EDR to ensure a secure environment during the targeted electoral cycle. This approach was a mandate for the country to perform its social responsibility in a practical, transparent and credible manner, and also, crucial to raise public confidence in the electoral process. This section will state about the intervention for preventing and solving electoral disputes which were financially supported by the Government of Switzerland.

**Activity: Creation of a secure environment to conduct peaceful elections**

1. Two local legal experts supported revising the electoral legislation, documents, internal instructions of CEC, bylaws and regulations. In addition, the following training materials and manuals were developed, and CEC used them in the EDR training for law-enforcement.

* “Manual on Resolution of Electoral Disputes for Employees of the Prosecutor’s Office”,
* “Manual on Resolution of Electoral Disputes for Judges” (Picture 7), and
* “The Collection of Legal Acts in Electoral Legislation for Precinct Election Commissions (PECs)/Territorial Election Commissions (TECs)”.

 Picture 7: Handbook for judges

1. Training about the new legislation, EDR and security were held for 25 officials of the CEC/SRS legal departments, including selected three candidates of trainers. These three participants were expected to train law-enforcement, judges and political party representatives in the future. The trainings were organized by KESP-2 held in July 2015.
2. The mentioned above training workshop for representatives of political parties and public organizations about the electoral legislation and EDR was organized for 25 participants by KESP-2 in August 2015.
3. As an entity to implement a public awareness campaign on EDR, an NGO “Promotank[[9]](#footnote-9)”, within the drive, conducted: workshops, TV/radio shows, publication of materials as follows.

* Seven public events such as roundtables, workshops, and flash mobs organized in all provinces and regions of the country;
* Eight radio programmes regarding the electoral process were broadcasted at national and regional channels in prime time with the participation of EMB representatives, independent experts, and NGOs;
* Ten publications and articles (in Kyrgyz/Russian) on elections, electoral issues and new elective procedure were provided; and
* Three video/audio products (in Kyrgyz/Russian) on elections and elective procedure produced and broadcasted in central and regional channels.

Consequently, not only voters but also the stakeholders such as NGOs and political parties acquired about the different elective procedure, including on EDR and security issues, the introduction of ICT, and so forth.

1. Seven training sessions on EDR for 200 senior management officials of the Ministry of Internal Affairs, General Prosecutor’s Office and Supreme Court were conducted in Bishkek by KESP-2 and trainers provided by the Project. During the training, participants learnt about the legislation and approach to handling conflict situations during elections in a peaceful manner and more precise and broader information from the CEC management officials.
2. CDCS conducted a country-ranged awareness campaign on EDR for law enforcement and prosecutors in regions. In total 26 workshops were held throughout the country for 929 participants, 812 police officers and 117 employees of prosecutor’s offices. In training, participants acquired the legislation and procedure to deal with complaints and security issues.
3. Between August-October 2015 two international consultants provided by KESP-2 exercised officials of EMBs and others concerned about the legislation, procedure, EDR, human rights and related process These consultants participated in not only meetings with the stakeholders but also court sessions, including cases on suspension from participation in the elections, namely Mirlan Djenchoroev, Kamchybek Tashiev, and other issues. Besides, they developed proposals on EDR and human rights issues. Their final reports were submitted to CEC and SRS for a reference for further work.

**Achieved Results**

Neither serious conflicts/disputes nor significant complaints were reported in the electoral cycle 2015-2017, which may have affected the results of the elections. The elections were organized in a peaceful and secure environment. It can be said that this is one of the most important results of the project activities.

The existence of the new electoral legislation and training for EDR performed a great deed to ensure a secure environment. Although some small electoral disputes occurred on the day of the Parliamentary Elections, they were successfully and quickly resolved by the respective officials themselves. This experience led their responsibilities in a practical, transparent and credible manner as well. Additionally, the section for responding complaints in the newly-developed Website of CEC also played an important role to avoid accumulating voters’ questions and minor issues.

Since distrust, ill feelings, or venial misunderstanding sometimes grows to a serious problem, the EMBs tried and eradicated these negative issues right as soon as possible.

## 

## Others

1. The Electoral System Development of the Head of Presidential Administration Office

In April 2016, a roundtable discussion with CEC, SRS, NGOs, and UNDP was held to review the 2015 Parliamentary Elections, and a representative of the OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR) in Warsaw presented a draft report of the elections before submitting it to Kyrgyz national authorities. In the meeting, an NGO “Civic Platform” was requested to prepare a consolidated file of amendment about the electoral system development of the Head of Presidential Administration Office to propose to the Working Group (WG) under the Presidential Administration. At first, the amendment was initiated in several key areas on electoral legislation, including gender quota, mechanisms of prohibiting changes in the party lists after elections, strengthening responsibility for voter bribery and so forth. Nevertheless, eventually, only parts of the burden on voter bribery, clarifications in mechanisms of electoral complaints, right of territorial electoral commissions on early termination of local council authorities, obstruction of exercising the electoral right or working with the electoral commissions were approved by WG. At the end of 2016, the proposed amendments passed the first reading in the Parliament. However, due to disruption of some parliament parties, the legislation was not approved and postponed to the next reading. Eventually, in January 2017, the Parliament passed the amendments to the Criminal code to strengthen the electoral actors’ responsibility for voter bribery.

1. Receiving a Prize

For the contribution made into the electoral process in the Kyrgyz Republic, UNDP and the then RR were commended by CEC.



Picture 8: Casting an honest vote for children’s better future

# Gender Perspective

UNDP in the Kyrgyz Republic has approached advocacy, policy and legal reforms to accelerate women’s equal participation in decision-making across all governance institutions and power branches at the national and local levels. Needless to say, it should be promoted the women’s participation as voters and candidates in electoral processes; supporting women’s representation in the public and municipal institutions such as constitutional committees, in the Parliament, local councils, public administrations and the judiciary. The following contents are the relation and situation of gender and KESP-II.

More than half of participants of yard-to-yard visits for the awareness campaign organized by Arysh were women.

Currently, female officials are well represented on the board of commissioners and in the staff, approximately 60-70%.

# Evaluation

A final evaluation report of KESP-2 was done by a local consultant by November 2018.

# Lessons Learnt

The final individual evaluation states that in overall the project achieved its targets. CEC’s capacity and resources were helped to be brought to the level which enabled the electoral management body to administer elections at higher standards than it was before. On those elements of the electoral process which were the focus of the project virtually all international and local observers noted compliance with international standards. Another target was improvement of the Unified Voter Registration Information Management System and Result Management Information System which also happened quite effectively.

Establishment of institutional communication and provision of support to civil society and political parties on electoral observation was also by and large took place. This target was aiming at building public confidence to elections. Though it is difficult to expect significant improvements in this area, by the project was essential to mitigate apprehensions about introduction of biometric registration and using IT for electoral processes. Reaching out to most of the critics of these innovations helped to clarify pending issue, and this not only mitigated fears, but also helped developers of IT system to cross-check against possible risks. A number of issues were considered consequently by the CEC’s working groups and later (disputed ones) by courts.

In many regards it was observed that UNDP has played a role beyond a mere implementation of the project, but was an agency coordinating and facilitating interaction among various stakeholders. This helped to facilitate support to various elements of electoral processes, and inadvertently helped the project as well. Commitment and ability to quickly and flexibly respond to the needs of local partners were viewed as the main positive features of UNDP’s engagement.

Some of the lessons learned came in regard to role of various individuals in different organizations whose concerted efforts had led to successful (in many regards) administering of elections in 2015. This should be taken into account as a factor which is often hard to replicate in other circumstances. Also, it is noted that an international organization should stay engaged continuously (as the electoral cycle approach employed in the KESP II suggested) engaged in electoral reforms to remain a relevant actor. Additionally, capacity of administering elections in overall seems to be an objective which has been sustainably achieved in many regards, and while it may remain the objective for further support, the emphasis for assistance should be moved to other issues of electoral process.

# Issues and Recommendations

Whereas some more strategic recommendations are written in the final evaluation sheet, an international consultant working with KESP-II at the PMU office indicated and recommended as bellow. According to him, Component 1 was approached effectively and efficiently. On the other hand, regarding Component 2 and 3, its contribution is debatable because of lack of funding especially for the 2017 Presidential Election process even though the election concluded peacefully.

According to international/national aid partners, although some political issues mentioned below and intimidation and misappropriation by some candidates which administrative resources faced occurred, mostly the preparation of the elections proceeded well. One of the most significant concerns among people was the candidate nomination and registration process which were not procedurally transparent which might have led to allegations that deregistration of candidates was selective and politically motivated.

1. Planning and Resource Mobilization for a Continuation of UN Electoral Assistance

There was a significant change in funding streams that saw EU monies, which would have gone into the UNDP election projects in the past, committed in direct budget support for the Kyrgyz Government and European/Kyrgyz Organizations, including Venice Commission and CDCS. On the other hand, EU may change its aid strategy in the future. Given this uncertainty about the main UNDP election funding partner, it will, therefore, be required to consider other opportunities, for example, a collection of smaller donors such as Switzerland, the U.K, Scandinavian Countries, Germany, Austria, private foundations, and so on.

As the basis of an approach to donors must be well-designed and based on needs, a ProDoc needs to go beyond traditional electoral administration technical assistance. Despite some shortcomings, in recent years, CEC has become a professional organization which shows few problems with the technicalities of electoral administration/operations, and the support by UNDP is now active and has produced excellent results. Because of many electoral assistance projects that the Kyrgyz Republic has received over the years, a big impact cannot be seen any longer, but it would require more support in the ‘deepening of democracy’ with election as a part but not as a standalone project.

In this respect, UNDP would be in a high position to support deepening democratic culture, practices, and institutions by the synergies with the other democracy and governance projects such as Rule of Law and the Parliamentary Support project. For the possible democracy project, UNDP will be able to broaden its scope to work with media, women, civil society, political parties and the judiciary like some good examples implemented in Tanzania and Nigeria.

From the viewpoint of planning and timing, CEC has a strategic plan, and the donors will have a better idea as to how they support the next election cycle. To kickstart the development of a new project, the following steps will be taken.

1. Request from the Government of the Kyrgyz Republic (e.g. CEC)
2. Deployment of a UNEAD needs-assessment mission (or desk review)
3. Approval of technical assistance through the UN focal point for elections
4. Project formulation
5. Resource Mobilization
6. Implementation

By looking at the international election technical assistance landscape in the country, it becomes clear that many organizations are competing for the same resources and are aiding across the board. If UNDP seeks to be competitive in this tense market, it must find the right areas of assistance which are not yet covered and raise the interest of the donor community.

Following areas might be of interest.

* Out-of-Country Voting (1 million Kyrgyz people live abroad, very few of them vote)
* Women participation in politics (temporary special measures, work with political parties)
* Data Protection legislation and protocols (SRS)
* Continuous Civic and Democracy Education
* Capacity building of selected CEC and SRS departments (e.g. in election technologies)
* Election legislative and procedural reform

1. Technical Assistance and Donor Coordination

The number of donors and their partners with different interests, concepts, structures and procedures increases their costs of election technical assistance and diminishes the impact of donor-funded projects. Furthermore, this multiplicity of donors and implementation partners can overburden the capacities of the host government partners to absorb the aid.

Donor coordination counteracts these phenomena and has become an essential item on the international development agenda. One of the reasons is that growing pressure improves the efficiency and effectiveness of development cooperation exerted and shrinks donor contributions. The partners ideally undertake donor coordination, but they must be willing and able to do so. For the donors, this means taking seriously and neither overtaxing nor undermining their partner countries’ ownership and capacity with respecting their development. The donors should also be willing to subordinate their interests, concepts, and visibility to an appropriate joint approach.

The goal of donor coordination in electoral assistance implementation is, in a nutshell, to raise the efficiency of donor-funded programmes, to provide technical assistance which is needs-based (not a donor’s interest) and to avoid duplications in the provision of technical assistance.

Looking at the electoral assistance landscape in the Kyrgyz Republic, it is apparent that several international organizations provide similar assistance to similar partners. Donor coordination ideally starts at the programming stage and shall be based on the requests of the Host government. The conventional practices of UNDP electoral projects show that where, for instance, IFES and UNDP, respectively the UNDP Donors and USAID (for IFES, NDI, and IRI) have cooperated from the development of their respective programmes. Consequently, duplications and ‘turf wars’ were avoided.

The best practice can be said that the host government performs the donor coordination, and the case of the Kyrgyz Republic would be that CEC plays the role. It, however, seems that the organization cannot perform this critical function. UNDP, therefore, is assisting CEC which is against the spirit of the ProDoc where CEC is claiming this function.

In the future, UNDP election projects would be advised that programming is based on the request of CEC and coordination with other donors and implementers in the development of respective support programmes. CEC will require assistance and capacity building in the function of donor coordination which is preferably provided by the UN as an impartial partner. The development and monitoring of technical assistance referring to “Matrix of Donor Assistance Kyrgyz Election Support Project” can be a useful tool for the donors and the host government to oversee the implementation of donor-funded activities adequately.

Donor coordination should be performed on three levels.

1. Level of the Government and Donor Representatives (Ambassadors)
2. Level of technical assistance providers and donor organizations’ technical staff
3. Internal coordination of possible cooperation in activities by national/international technical assistance partners

Given the capacity gap of CEC to perform donor coordination, UNDP is well positioned to provide them with assistance for the upcoming elections which would also raise UNDP’s visibility in the processes. Future cooperation in donor coordination of electoral activities shall be discussed with CEC and partners.

As mentioned above, many organizations have been providing technical assistance to the election process, and so, robust coordination mechanisms are necessary to avoid duplications and an overburdening of the election management body.

For instance, during the electoral cycle 2015-2017, mainly the following organizations implemented projects for the success of the elections (Table 8).

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Organizations** | **Kyrgyz Partner** | **Technical assistance provided** |
| UNDP KESP | CEC, SRS | ICT, EDR, Civic and Voter Education (CVE) |
| IFES | CEC, CSO, SRS | EDR, capacity building, CVE, training, women, youth |
| Venice Commission | CEC, Coalition, CSO | EDR, legal reform, media monitoring |
| OSCE/ODIHR | CEC | Judicial reform, election observation |
| Coalition | CEC, CSO | Election observation, CVE |
| NDI | CEC, CSO | Civil society, CVE, election observation, youth |
| IRI | CEC, Political Parties, CSO | Candidates, political parties, party observers (agents) |
| KOICA | CEC, SRS | Election technology support for CEC and SRS |

Table 8: Technical Assistance Mapping

In some countries where UNDP has implemented election assistance projects, the electoral donor coordination is handled by the UNDP RR, and the project chief technical advisor does the technical coordination.

Although CEC should have provided the technical coordination, some interlocutors mentioned the necessity of better and more frequent coordination. Hence, KESP-II organized the professional coordination meeting once in two weeks starting on 25 August at the PMU office. Although the project term of KESP-II came to an end, the Donor Partners Coordination Council (DPCC) will play an important role for donor coordination. The details on DPCC are mentioned later.

1. Brain-drain of CEC staff

While CEC has received substantial technical assistance and training for capacity building, it suffers from brain-drain and an unsustainable practice caused by the fact that every incoming commission brings their staff. Low/middle-level staff tend to remain their low capacities of performance without being trained. However, even if they are taught, they are often replaced by another position where they do not utilize their newly-acquired knowledge and skills in elections. Hence, countermeasures through the entire civil service should be taken with more fundamental solutions.

1. Cooperation between CEC and SRS and Citizen Registration

The precise and inclusive voter registry is a basis for credible election processes. Transition countries frequently meet a long way to overcome technical, political, institutional and financial challenges for the registry system. The Kyrgyz Republic has also faced difficulties for constructing its voter lists which were inflated and incorrect and led people being excluded or entered multiple times. The movement of the biometric registration managed by SRS has brought significant gains in efficiency and accuracy of the voters’ roll.

Typically, every data belonging to each agency has different goals and, occasionally, conflicting requirements, and so, using a shared database controlled by one governmental institution for conducting elections may ease a burden of the EMBs. Nevertheless, this exercise possibly meets additional difficulties that need to be addressed.

For instance, even though election timelines are typically less flexible than those of other government processes, the voter registration and/or data maintenance may not be a high priority of responsible agencies. Also, there are legitimate political concerns that opposition parties may look askance at contents of the data provided by the government suspecting a bias against those who support the ruling party.

Responding criticisms by civil society and complaints by political parties, the Kyrgyz Republic, since its independence, has made attempts to create an accurate and politically acceptable voter registration system. The government introduced the biometric registration technology which was responsible for all necessary personal databases, including information about birth, marriage, divorce, death, civil status, and passport. Subsequently, CEC decided to use the data in the electoral processes. As a result, CEC and SRS needed to tackle institutional challenges to cooperate each other efficiently although this occurred typically when two institutions with different culture, goals, and challenges worked together on sensitive issues such as handling personal data. In this regard, according to some observers of the election management, their relationship has improved significantly over the years and is now allowing well-organized cooperation in developing the voters’ roll. The use of civil registries is currently the best practice and is considered as a handy and cost-effective tool by the World Bank, UN, and so on. This fruitful cooperation is exemplary in the region and will inspire other countries to go the same way.

On the other hand, CEC and SRS need to accelerate creating entirely exclusive lists of citizens/voters as the data in the biometrics authentication system has not covered many Kyrgyz people yet. In addition, both institutions are encouraged to improve the ICT infrastructure at the PEC level and include all Kyrgyz citizens living abroad in the civil and voter registry. Regarding this matter, the election community has discussed that SRS should make a more significant effort rather than CEC because SRS is a governmental institution and susceptible the government in preparing the lists which hamper credibility of the process.

1. Necessity of Electoral Reform

Legal and administrative reform for fair and transparent elections is a continuous process and should be taken up again to get it implemented before the next Parliamentary Elections which will be conducted in 2020. Even though there are needs on the reform in several areas, these should be coordinated with other technical assistance providers.

Some areas where the legal and procedural reform would be required.

* Election system which includes Temporary Special Measures (TSM).
* Parties and candidates nomination procedures for more transparency
* Political finance regulations to be enforced
* Registration and electoral processes of Kyrgyz people living abroad
* Civil service to prevent brain-drain within CEC
* Capacity and infrastructure of TEC and PEC
* Procedures to curtail the use of government resources in election campaigns
* Civil Society and Media to monitor campaign expenditures
* Data protection and usage protocols within SRS
* EDR on all levels

CEC has received the significant amount of technical assistance in the past 7-10 years from UNDP and the other organizations. Every new commission, however, brought new staff and so hampered the sustainability of the already-built capacity. Thus, further capacity building activities in specific fields, especially financial auditing of campaigns, EDR, internal communication and management, out of county voting and ICT, may also be required.

# Elections overviews

During the project implementation period in December 2014 - April 2018, the Elections of Parliament in 2015, several local councils and referendum in 2016 and President in 2017 were conducted. This section will describe the circumstances of these elections. According to IFES (2018) and CEC, the statistics of each ballot are as follows.

The 2015 Parliamentary Elections

* Date: 4 October 2015, 8.00-20.00
* Registered voters: 2,761,297
* Voters: 1,563,456
* Turnout: 56.62%
* Polling stations: 2,374
* Participated political parties: 14

OSCE and the Council of Europe assessed this election highly. International observation missions consisted 320 observers from 41 countries, including OSCE/ODIHR, the OSCE Parliament Assembly, Parliamentary Assembly of Council of Europe and European Parliament. The then President of the Kyrgyz Republic, Mr. Atambaev also evaluated this election saying, “my dream came true – the fair election was deeply my matter” (Reference, 2016).

The Municipal Elections in 2016

Following the Presidential Decrees in January, February, and March 2016, in different places of the country, the Municipal Elections were conducted: 201 PECs in March and 23 PECs in May. According to the final report of “the Automation of Voters’ Identification Process during the Electoral Cycle in 2015-2017” written (UNDP, 2016), the new electronic technologies of voter identification were used in March, and 52 sets of equipment were used in May. The electoral process and results of municipal elections demonstrated conclusively and strengthened voters’ trust and credibility in democratic elections in the Kyrgyz Republic.

The 2016 Constitutional Referendum

A referendum was conducted for constitutional amendments in the Kyrgyz Republic, expecting the 2017 Presidential Election. The main purposes of changes were to put more powers to the cabinet and leaders of parliamentary factions and to allow combining the position of the Prime Minister, or deputy Prime Minister with MP activities.

* Date: 11 December 2016
* Registered voters: 2,851,952
* Voters: 1,200,446
* Turnout: 42.09%
* Polling stations: 2,365

The 2017 Presidential Election

SRS submitted the initial voters’ lists to CEC at the beginning of August 2017, and CEC presented them at each polling station so that voters could check themselves in the lists.

* Date: 15 October 2017
* Registered voters: 3,014,434
* Voters: 1,697,868
* Turnout: 56.32%
* Polling stations: 2,375
* Candidates: 19

The changes in the Government marked the year of 2017. After the resignation (due to registration as a presidential candidate) of the Prime Minister, Mr. Sooronbay Jeenbekov, in August 2017, the Parliament approved the new Prime Minister – Sapar Isakov (ex-chief of the Presidential administration), who brought several young ministers into his Cabinet.

Overall - the electoral cycle 2015-2017

Since the political landscape throughout these electoral years was determined by various political actors in the Kyrgyz Republic, people say that the “political season” has started with the “war of compromising materials”. The administration reacted toward the political opponents by arresting prominent opposition leaders, opening criminal cases, and applying pressure on the freedom of expression. Firm actions of the police in response to protests that erupted after the arrests of the opposition leaders demonstrated the readiness of authorities to preserve power and applied robust actions to repress their opponents. In addition, several legal cases against independent media outlets and some prominent journalists were initiated by the General Prosecutor’s Office in 2017 to protect the honor and dignity of the then President, Mr. Atambayev. As a result of the rigorous electoral competition, the ruling party candidate of the President, Mr. Jeenbekov won in the first round. While the elections were in general assessed by various observers as competitive, there were also “credible reports of widespread abuse of public resources and pressure on voters.” (OSCE/ODIHR monitoring mission, 2017). Such claim could be supported by a broad consensus among local political analysts that Jeenbekov benefitted significantly from “administrative resources” — which can comprise anything from abuse of control over state media to put pressure on state workers and university students to vote for a preferred candidate.

Finally, again, the suffrage is infringed if only citizens whose personal details with biometrics are registered to SRS can vote. However, still, many citizens do not hope to do so due to the weakness in the data protection laws and practices. Also, more than 700,000 Kyrgyz citizens, including voters, are staying outside the country (SSM, 2018) and need to obtain their biometrics card. These issues should be solved immediately.

# Development Partners Coordination Council

The predecessor of the Development Partners Coordination Council (DPCC) was formalized in 2002 and, in 2009, was renamed as DPCC. The purpose of the council is to improve the multi-way flow of relevant information among donors, governmental agencies and NGO/CSOs. This mechanism facilitates networking and broader collaboration within the aid community, more constructive dialogue and vision with the Kyrgyz Government following the state’s priorities, and strengthen overall donor coordination at the national level (DPCC, 2018).

The UN agencies in the Kyrgyz Republic are also the members of this council, and the RC/UNDP RR is one of the co-chairs. UNDP has been a member of and worked with the Working Group (WG) in the field of electoral assistance. During the KESP-II implementation period, UNDP did the following activities with the WG.

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# Plans for the Next Period

Ultimately, UNDP assistance aims to ensure that elections are entirely owned nationally, that there is awareness of votes being part of a broader democratic governance framework, and that elections provide a vital means to safeguard human rights, exercise choice and express opinions (UNDP, 2007). Nevertheless, as mentioned above, there are some room for improvement and issues awaiting solution in the Kyrgyz Republic, and so many international/national cooperation organizations, including UNDP, are eager to continue supporting the future elections in this country.

In 2018 UNDP received a letter from CEC and SRS with further request for electoral support for the upcoming parliament elections to be held in 2020. In respond to these requests, UN DPA at HQ in New-York conducted a Needs and Assessment Mission through ou 18-26 November 2018. During the visit the Mission met a number of stakeholders, both national and international, governmental and non-governmental. The Mission has also visited Osh. After the visit the Mission will prepare a Final report which will serve as a basis for further activities of UNDP in electoral filed in this country.

# Conclusion

Overall, KESP-II mostly succeeded in attaining its primary goals which were to support critical electoral events in 2015-2017 in conformity with national and international standards. While, largely, CEC, SRS, law-enforcement, and judges received the cooperation, the other stakeholders, including NGOs and media, also benefited from the project activities. In 2015, the significant budget was dedicated to EDR and electoral security training, which involved the Ministry of Interior, Prosecutor’s General Office, Supreme Court and EMBs management. Also, it was essential for the EMB specialists to build their capacity to utilize the modern ICT and identification equipment during the elections. Furthermore, the project organized a number of the public education campaigns as well. Voters often do not know where, when and how to poll. Diffusion of correct information about all stages of the electoral processes was essential for the credibility of the entire operations and for understanding how the electorate work for the voting.

The key features of the Parliament Elections in 2015 was undoubtedly the introduction of the electronic technologies and substantive amendments of the electoral legislation in the electoral processes. The use of ITC during the recent elections was successful in many aspects: it signaled the political will to improve elections in the state; it grew the whole electoral processes, including preparation of quality voter lists; and it ensured more free, fair and transparent voting processes. As a result, the election was recognized as complying with the international standards of the global communities.

The Presidential Election in 2017 was drawing huge attention nationally and internationally because the past presidential elections became the sources of the sever disputes. Therefore, on the eve of the 2017 Presidential Election, more care had to be paid to the organization for the public instruction to prevent electoral disputes. However, the EMBs used all the experience they had gained till then and had obtained the citizens’ trust little by little, and so, the election generally succeeded at the end. Each responsible authority was aware of their role and responsibility in their area of activities.

On the other hand, the use of new ICT stuff requires new understanding and knowledge of both the EMBs and voters when it is updated or renewed, and as the qualified human resource also frequently changes. Besides the fact that EMBs’ employees pursue the thorough learning opportunities for the proper use of the latest equipment, it is also necessary for voters to know the way of casting a ballot with the stuff and information about the newly-developed electoral legislation. Moreover, though the core responsibility of conducting elections rests with obviously the EMBs, their work needs to be supported further in order to do the future polls even better. For these matters, the authorities of the country now look forward to gaining continuous international assistance and support on elections and electoral issues.

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|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Kyrgyz Election Support Project (KESP II) 2014 - 2018** | **Project budget** | **Project Expenses** | **Project Expenses** | **Total Project expenses** |
| **Financial Report: 2015 - 2018** |
| **Components** | **2015 - 2018** | **2015-2017** | **2018** | **2015 - 2018** |
| **USD** | **USD** | **USD** | **USD** |
| **Component 1 - Advancement of ICT introduction into electoral management process** | | | | |
| **Inputs** |  |  |  |  |
| Purchase of a combo reader system with machine readable zone (MRZ) to SRS | $210 527 | $171 158 |  | $171 158 |
| Subtotal for component 1: | **$210 527** | **$171 158** |  | **$171 158** |
| **Component 2: Institutional communication, Civic and voter education campaigns** | | | | |
| **Inputs** |  |  |  |  |
| Capacity building of CEC operators and IT specialists | $80 000 | $65 054 |  | $65 054 |
| Subtotal for component 2: | **$80 000** | **$65 054** |  | **$65 054** |
| **Component 3: Electoral dispute resolution and electoral security training (Initial)** | | | | |
| **Inputs** |  |  |  |  |
| Management of electoral disputes: development of training materials | $50 000 | $56 894 |  | $56 894 |
| Training for judges | $75 000 | $69 934 |  | $69 933 |
| Training for political parties, observers on accurate submission of electoral complaints | $75 000 | $74 062 |  | $74 063 |
| Training for the law enforcement officials | $73 000 | $67 800 |  | $67 800 |
| International Electoral Disputes Resolution Expert (short term contract) | $50 000 | $32 156 |  | $32 156 |
| Subtotal for component 3 (Initial): | **$323 000** | **$300 846** |  | **$300 846** |
| **Trainings of the CEC Operators, SRS Identidication Operators, IT specialists of the SRS (Additional)** | | | | |
| SRS events | $336 262 | $335 129 |  | $335 129 |
| CEC events | $148 935 | $169 389 |  | $169 389 |
| Administrative assistance to the SRS | $2 158 | $2 757 |  | $2 757 |
| Administrative assistance to the CEC | $5 476 | $6 254 | $670 | $6 924 |
| Subtotal for trainings: | **$492 831** | **$513 529** | **$670** | **$514 199** |
| **Capacity building Center of the SRS** | | | | |
| Development of Project Estimation Documentation | $0 | $4 801 |  | $4 801 |
| Constraction Engeneer | $0 | $2 485 |  | $2 485 |
| Construction works | $0 | $0 | $52 725 | $52 725 |
| Subtotal for Capacity building Center of the SRS | **$0** | **$7 286** | **$52 725** | **$60 011** |
| Indirect cost of the action (General Management Support 8%) | $92 689 | $83 407 | $4 272 | $87 679 |
| **GRAND TOTAL Cost** | **$1 199 047** |  |  |  |
| Bank Charges | $100 |  |  |  |
| **Total Amount Received** | **$1 198 947** | **$1 141 280** | **$57 667** | **$1 198 947** |

1. <http://tass.ru/mezhdunarodnaya-panorama/3862834> [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. http://www.kg.undp.org/content/kyrgyzstan/en/home/ourperspective/ourperspectivearticles/2015/05/22/matrix-of-donor-assistance-in-elections-in-kyrgyzstan.html [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. http://www.kg.undp.org/content/kyrgyzstan/en/home/presscenter/articles/2017/10/22/transparent-elections-as-basis-of-country-s-welfare.html [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
4. The HACT mechanism is the sole framework applied when transferring cash to UNDP Implementing Partner (IP) and applicable for any situation in any country, including emergency, crisis, and post-conflict contexts. The IP is defined as an entity that is responsible and accountable for ensuring a proper way to use resources provided by UNDP, and implementation and management of the planned activities as defined in the Work Programme. The IP includes governmental institutions, inter-governmental organizations, CSOs, NGOs and the other UN agencies. [↑](#footnote-ref-4)
5. CET or Center of Electoral Technologies is a body under the CEC with its own Chapter and management. UNDP is used to work with CET under HACT modality. [↑](#footnote-ref-5)
6. MRZ: Usually, this is printed on the identity page with characters in a row/rows to provide personal information such as name, passport number, nationality, date of birth, sex, etc. [↑](#footnote-ref-6)
7. novostroikas: groups of settlers/internal migrants. Many of them are facing lack of access to basic living standards in the vulnerable, poorly-developed and fewer infrastructure areas. [↑](#footnote-ref-7)
8. The contents are about the call center, procedure to vote, how to fill a ballot, order of automatic counting of votes, management complaints/appeals, and newly-opened other polling stations around Bishkek. [↑](#footnote-ref-8)
9. Promotank is a local consulting company that works for business partners, the governments, CSOs and international development organizations and specializes in strategic advisory, research and project delivery for economic development, combining unique local perspectives and technical expertise. [↑](#footnote-ref-9)