

Technical Working Group on Elections

Tuesday 15 January 2012 at 11.00–12:30
UNDP Lebanon Country Office

Attendees

The following organisations attended:

1. European Union (EU)
2. National Democratic Institute (NDI)
3. United Kingdom Embassy (UKE)
4. UN Development Programme (UNDP)
5. UNDP Lebanese Elections Assistance Programme (LEAP)
6. United States Agency for International Development (USAID)
7. Women in Front (WIF)
8. Partnership Centre for Development and Democracy (PCDD)
9. Lebanese Physical Handicapped Union (LPHU)
10. SMART Centre
11. Lebanese Council of Women (LCW)

Minutes

1. Introduction

Richard Chambers (UNDP LEAP) welcomed the attendees to the meetings and explained that the ultimate purpose of these Technical Working Group meetings is to establish a liaison between civil society organizations working on elections and the Technical Assistance Group to the Ministry of Interior and Municipalities.

Said Sanadiki (UNDP LEAP) updated the attendees on the ongoing meetings of the Parliamentary sub-committee concerning the discussions of the different electoral systems under the draft electoral laws that have been proposed to Parliament. There was no consensus on a new law, but also no consensus on whether the current law would be applied. The attendees discussed the impact of there being no change to the electoral system, and whether various reforms could continue to be introduced, either through amendments to the law (such as ballots) or where no amendments were needed (such as facilitation of the voting process of citizens with special needs, or results procedures). The attendees commented on the frustrations in preparing activities for the elections given these uncertainties, and reflected on the likely impact on public participation.

2. Updates from TWGE participants on their elections activities for 2013

PCDD Activities targeting campaign managers and candidates,
Intensive 2 days training on how to organize electoral campaigns,
Targeting women candidates,
Working closely with grassroots,
Providing one on one consultation to candidates on how to design their electoral campaigns.

LPHU	Working with the MoIM since 2005 and focusing on the request of ballot papers in order to attract the highest number of voters (voters with special needs, illiterate...), Training MoIM to facilitate the access of voters with special needs, Create mechanisms to facilitate participation.
SMART center	4 projects related to the 2013 elections: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Training campaign managers in the north and south on how to work with grassroots, 3 debates for women to become more active in the electoral process as an accountable candidate, - One voice can change will start in February 2013, it will target the youth in universities who will be voting for the first time in 2013 by introducing democracy and election related courses to their curriculum. - The third project is in collaboration with women in front to promote women leaders and decision making, establishing a directory including the biography of 150 women decision makers, 6 media campaigns targeting women voters and women candidates. - Art of debate for university students.
Women in Front	Mapping based on the 1960 law to include women candidates in the political party's list.
LCW	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - National Women conference targeting women in all sectors to show women's participation in the society. - Supporting women voters and candidates for the upcoming elections, buying air time to interview women candidates, - Establish women leadership academy after the elections.
NDI	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Holding town hall meetings with CCER, - Informal work with Parliament 2013, - Supporting LADE and CCER's work for the upcoming elections, - Supporting electoral reforms advocacy after the elections, - Supporting domestic observers.
EU	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Supporting the Government through the LEAP project, - Supporting civil society
USAID	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Supporting LEAP, - Supporting elections monitoring and electoral reforms
UK Embassy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Supporting LEAP - Mapping violence risks around the elections period, - Engaging with MoIM for risk assessment.

Next TWGE meeting will take place on **Tuesday February 12, 2013 at 11:00am at UNDP premises on the 6th floor.**