

Technical Working Group on Elections

Wednesday May 28, 2014 from 9:30 till 11:30
UNDP Country Office

Attendees

The following organizations attended:

- UK Embassy
- Women in Front
- YWCA
- Lebanese Foundation for Permanent Civil Peace
- NDI
- UNSCOL
- LCPS
- American Embassy
- UNDP LEAP

Agenda

- A. Electoral timeframes and operational steps,
- B. Updates from LEAP on electoral activities,
- C. Updates from TWGE participants.

Minutes

A: LEAP welcomed the attendees in these times of uncertainties and emphasized on the legality of holding the parliamentary elections. Many questions were raised on what will happen if elections don't take place in November at the latest. The two foreseen solution would either be vacuum or another extension for the MPs. However and currently given the vacuum in the presidency of the republic, the parliament faces a dilemma of whether it is a legislature or only a voting body.

LEAP presented the electoral time frames and presented several scenarios; if elections were to take place in September 2014, and if they were to take place in November 2014. What would change with these scenarios would be: candidate registrations, candidate resignation, election campaign, establishment of the SCEC, and appointment of polling station officials and polling locations.

Then he presented the operational steps for elections to take place which include the electoral budget, the establishment of the SCEC, publication of voter registry, appointment of polling officials, assignment of polling centers, and so on...

B: Updates from LEAP on Electoral Activities

- LEAP's latest activities have been the re-launch of the voter registration campaign. Richard showed the various numbers of ads and billboard pertaining to this campaign. Then he shared the results of the survey assessing the efficacy of the campaign and how it was perceived by the Lebanese at large.
- LEAP also developed an interactive map that shows voter registration comparison between 2013 and 2014, the map is found at: www.elections.gov.lb
- LEAP worked on developing ballot papers for the Baabda district and ran a pilot simulation with several stakeholders.

C: TWGE participants update

U.K. Embassy

- Developments related to the political development in Lebanon is discussed through the blog of Her Majesty's Ambassador to Lebanon Tom Fletcher
- Discussing the Social Media and blogging impact as well as civil society engagement and direct dialogue with people: # Leb 2020 # U.K in Lebanon

NDI

- Partnership with CCER mostly
- Informal survey for technical assistance
- Town hall meetings for reforms are being organized for this purpose: pre-printed ballots: Akkar and South mostly
- Focus Groups for awareness about reforms are being held : LADE/CCER
- Project to organize data of supporters / members etc.
- Smartphone Application for Elections Monitoring (LADE)

Women in Front

- Women in municipalities project / MEPI (60 women to be identified to run for municipal elections / training and presentation of programs – deadline for the project end of August)
- New Program on Quota / need help for lobbying

Lebanese Foundation for Permanent Civil Peace

- 5 projects: one is focusing on promoting women participation in the political life through communitarian work
- Establishing focus groups in different regions: Kesserwan –Tyr- Sidon

Event with NDI

- Conference which took place at UNESCO about the constitutional dates and constitutional deadlines regarding the presidential elections.
- Workshop on dialogue between local citizens vs. politicians / town hall meetings.
- Legal regional workshop on Human Rights Education

YWCA

- Backing up Women in Parliament and all kind of activism and activities related to women empowerment
- Offering a place for debates, conferences and meetings.

LCPS

- Involved in Research for other NGOs related to women empowerment and Elections. (Clientelism, Ballots etc.. especially for NDI)
- Their own work is more focused O&G, Decentralization etc.

LPHU

- Consultants on accessibility and adaptation mainly for LADE