PROJECT BASIC INFORMATION

Project Title: Lebanese Elections Assistance Project (LEAP)
Project ID: 00083474
Implementing Partner: DIM
Project start and end dates: 31 August 2012 – 31 December 2017
Total project budget: 11,576,019.30 USD
Donor(s): EU, USAID, UK, UNDP
Reporting period: 1 January – 31 December 2016

Include a brief summary of the projects, its objectives, and outcome(s) and outputs. Highlight the targets for the reporting period. (Max 0.5 page)

Background

The Lebanese Elections Assistance Project (LEAP) main objective is to strengthen the institutional capacity of the national institutions in terms of electoral management and administration, in accordance with the international standards. The project is developed to provide support and assistance in an electoral cycle approach aiming at developing the capacity of national stakeholders for the conduct of credible, periodical, transparent and inclusive elections in Lebanon, strengthen public confidence in the electoral process and, by this, contribute to democratic consolidation in the country.

The project has five main component areas: (1) election management (2) campaign supervision (3) voter education (4) election dispute resolution (5) women’s participation in elections. The project works closely with its main partner, the Ministry of Interior and Municipalities (MoIM), which has responsibilities for electoral management, administration and overall electoral operations. The project also supports other key electoral actors, such as the Supervisory Commission for the Election Campaign (SCEC) and judicial bodies with responsibilities for electoral disputes, as well as civil society groups active on electoral issues.

During this year, one of the main achievements of the project was the successful conduct of 2016 municipal elections despite all political and security challenges, in this context LEAP worked closely with the MOIM in order to support the preparation, organization and conduct of the Municipal and Mukhtar Elections. As a result of the successful completion of the local elections, the project was able to reach the intended targets as such:
• Building sustainable election management capacity through:
  o technical assistance and advisory support to the MoIM in the implementation of electoral operations
  o Timely procurement of equipment requested by the MoIM including computers, printers, digital fingerprint stations, scanners, smart board, software, etc.
  o Successful pilot of the automated candidate’s registration and results management system in Akkar governorate.
  o Efficient implementation of a modern accreditation system of observers, media and special guests.
• Strengthen capacity on voter education and public participation through:
  o Effective support to the MoIM in the development and implementation of the voter education and awareness campaigns throughout the electoral period.
  o Timely dissemination of relevant electoral information through media outlets (including TV and radio channels), website and social media.
• Support to the resolution of electoral disputes through:
  o Effective support to civil society and domestic observation groups on electoral dispute resolution through a workshop and a guidebook covering themes such as: international standards on EDR and practical aspects of EDR observation and reporting.
  o Effective publication and dissemination of relevant toolkits and materials on EDR through the design and development of three infographic animation clips presenting the main aspects of the EDR system and complaints channels applicable for the local elections.
• Support to initiatives to improve election opportunities for women through:
  o Effective partnership and cooperation with CSOs and NGOs and international organizations in the area of strengthening women participation and representation for the 2016 municipal elections.
  o Effective publication and dissemination of relevant toolkits and materials encouraging women to participate in elections as candidates and voters.
  o Effective development of awareness and education campaign targeting potential women candidates, stakeholders and voters on the role and importance of women participation in the political life and in particular as municipal council members and mukhtars.
  o Effective publication of relevant benchmark data on post elections gender key results.
I Results Achieved

OUTPUT ONE: Sustainable Capacity for the Management and Administration of Elections Developed

1.1 Expert inputs to election legislation discussions

Achievements

- During this reporting period, the project developed a compilation and a comparative table in Arabic and English of the different draft laws and electoral systems proposed for the Parliamentary Elections. An important tool for the ongoing debates over the improvements needed to the electoral legal framework was the compendium of draft laws developed and printed by LEAP. The compendium contains the main six draft laws which are been taken into consideration during the latest discussions. The compendium also contains a comparative table with the main electoral aspects in each specific draft law for easy reference and comparison. The compilation is addressed to electoral experts, consultants and practitioners working in the area of electoral legal framework reform. This tool is prepared on the basis of the ongoing discussions on electoral reform (see annex 1).

- Following the successful completion of the 2016 municipal elections, the project initiated in June the post-electoral activities in order to assess the strengths and weaknesses of the project support, the effectiveness of the intervention and to gather the feedback from partners and stakeholders. In this regard, the project facilitated briefing and debriefing sessions in which were presented and discussed the main areas of assistance, the key activities and the different proposals of the draft electoral laws.

- In preparation for the 2017 parliamentary elections, and under the patronage of the Speaker of Parliament, the Lebanese Parliament, the Ministry of Interior and Municipalities and UNDP organized on the 30 of November a conference entitled “The Parliamentary Electoral Legal Framework”. The conference’s main objective was to offer MPs, parliamentary blocs, political parties, civil society organizations and relevant local and international parties, the opportunity to discuss and exchange viewpoints, including those related to promoting modern electoral democratic principles, to provide opinions and suggestions on the possible methods to reform the parliamentary electoral law, provide recommendations and improvements and discuss best
possible practices to promote legislation and provide credibility to the integrity of parliamentary elections. The conference was attended by over 300 participants and was opened by a panel formed by the Minister of Interior, the UN Special Coordinator for Lebanon, the EU Ambassador in Lebanon and the representative of the Speaker of the Parliament. The concluding remarks were made by the UNDP Resident Representative who underlined the importance of having timely this dialog, exchange of opinions and find constructive solutions that will strengthen democracy in the country and will lead to the organization of transparent, inclusive and fair elections in Lebanon.

1.2 Strengthened capacity for candidate registration and results management (CRRM)

Achievements

- In May 2016, the project successfully supported the MoIM in the conduct of the candidate registration process for the by-elections of Jezzine by using the electronic candidate registration developed and tested in 2014.
- During the fourth phase of municipal elections, the project supported the MoIM in the implementation of the new automated candidate registration system in the governorate of Akkar. For this, a team of ten data operators were deployed and trained on how to operate the system during the candidate registration period from 5 to 23 May 2016. Furthermore the project installed and equipped the candidate registration unit with the following IT system:
  - 10 laptops
  - 3 Dot-Matrix printers
  - 1 Regular printer
  - 2 routers
  - Backup internet connections

Under this pilot project, the candidate registration process was conducted in parallel utilizing the existing manual system and the new digitalized system, as described in the flowchart below:
o In addition to the candidate registration process, the project piloted the electronic results management system (RMS) on E-Day, in parallel with the existing one used by the registration committees, in Akkar Governorate. A team of data inputters were trained and deployed to the different registration committees in order to transfer polling stations results electronically in parallel with the manual tabulation system used by the RCs. This pilot will allow the Ministry of Interior, with the support of LEAP, to draw useful lessons learned on how the new system can be improved in order to fully digitize the results management process.

o The project finalized the results management system by customizing and developing a final reporting tool. The reporting tool allows the user to generate a complete detailed and comprehensive report that is downloadable, printable and shareable. This customization came as result of the lessons learned exercise that was conducted by the office of the governorate of Akkar and UNDP LEAP.

o Following the completion of the 2016 municipal elections, the Governor of Akkar and LEAP Project team had a post-electoral de-briefing in which were discussed the main areas of support, the strengths and areas that need further assistance for future elections. In this context, Akkar Governor thanked UNDP and LEAP Project for all the support provided throughout the organization and conduct of the fourth phase of elections in Akkar. It was acknowledged that the LEAP mobile team deployed to Akkar was particularly efficient in providing technical and advisory support in system, distribution and management of electoral sensitive and non-sensitive materials and electoral assistance, as required. In addition, the Governor handed over to the project team an award mentioning “In appreciation and gratitude from Akkar Governorate for the hard work and cooperation of LEAP” in areas such as: pilot of the automated candidates registration and results management.

1.3 Strengthened capacity for external relations on election management responsibilities

Achievements

o The project supported the development and launch of the new official MoIM elections website. In the new format, the project embedded the latest coding technology to the website to make it compatible with smart phones and tablets. The upgrade has also simplified the backend platform, which will incorporate the CRS, RMS and Accreditation Management Tools. Furthermore, during the four phases of elections, the project kept updating the website with all elections official statements,
decisions and circulars, in addition to the elections 2016 results.

- Based on the request of the Ministry of Interior and Municipalities, the project re-opened the hotline center on 18 April in the Operation Room at the Ministry of Interior and Municipalities. The 1766-hotline number was available to answer queries and claims of citizens (voters, candidates) observers, or polling officials during the four phases of local elections.

During the four phases of elections 2285 calls have been reported with a breakdown as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Phase</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Calls</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Phase 1</td>
<td>Sunday 8/5/2016</td>
<td>650</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Phase 2</td>
<td>Sunday 15/5/2016</td>
<td>547</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Phase 3</td>
<td>Sunday 22/5/2016</td>
<td>386</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Phase 4</td>
<td>Sunday 29/5/2016</td>
<td>702</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total calls</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td><strong>2285</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

As a comparison, during the 2010 municipal elections the hot line service received 4846 calls. Overall, this intervention and support was appreciated by stakeholders, observers and voters as a best practice that contributed to the transparency and credibility of the process and should be repeated in the upcoming elections.

The frequency of the calls showed that 65% came from polling officials while 25% were calls from local observers. Finally, the calls from voters and citizen’s represented around 10% of the total calls. It is important to note that not all the calls were related to electoral complaints. Actually, the majorities were administrative or procedural inquiries related to electoral materials, eligibility, counting and tabulation.

In terms of main subjects of the calls we are presenting below the main areas of inquiry:

**Polling officials**
- Counting ballots (similar names/nicknames/marks) 25%
- Parties agents/candidates presence (numbers allowed/eligibility) 20%
- Missing electoral items 20%
- Discrepancy in records 15%
- Voting documents (IDs/passports) 5%
- Usage of envelopes/forms 5%

**Voters/Citizens**
- Candidacy eligibility 30%
- Missing names on the voters lists 25%
- Where to vote (polling stations locations) 15%
- Identification documents 15%
- Slow voting process 5%
- Pressure on voters 5%

**Observers**
• Access to the Registration and High Registration Committees 75%
• Crowded polling stations 5%
• Pressure on voters within the polling centers 5%
• Violation of the electoral silence/campaigning 5%
• Presence of police officers in the polling stations 5%

- The project developed an electronic accreditation tool for the MoIM, which was used during the four Elections phases, in order to process the accreditation requests from observation groups and media outlets around 1700 badges was issued for media, 1500 for national observers and 110 for special visitors.

1.4 Promoting measures to improve the electoral framework

No Direct activities were undertaken under this activity

1.5 Building electoral officials professional knowledge and awareness

Achievements

- The Project assisted the MoIM in developing alternatives in order to increase the knowledge of polling staff in managing election day operations:
  - Training DVD
    The project developed and produced a training DVD movie that explains election day procedures in details. 13,000 copies of the DVD were distributed to different public institutions based on the number of polling staff working there.
  - Training Manual
    The project developed and printed a training manual that clearly explains election day procedures and the duties of the polling staff. 33,000 copies of this manual were sent to polling officials along with other electoral materials. The manual proved essential for staff, voters and agents as it was considered as their best reference on election day procedures (see annex 2).
  - Electoral laws
    The project updated the electoral laws related to the municipal councils and Ikhtiyariah (Mukhtars) Elections. The laws include 25/2008 Parliamentary Elections, the municipal Act and the mukhtar law. The project printed and distributed 18,000 copies of the parliamentary laws, 11,000 copies of the municipal act and 11,000 copies of the mukhtar laws.
Based on the MOIM request, the project recruited and trained six quality control teams that were deployed in different districts in Mount Lebanon prior to the second electoral phase. The six teams assisted regional administrative offices in preparing, organizing and dispatching sensitive and non-sensitive materials. This troubleshooting task successfully improved the overall implementation of the electoral related operations for the second phase and provided lessons learned that were implemented in the next two phases.

Prior to the fourth and final electoral phase, the project deployed a backup team of 25 support officers and staff to assist the MoIM in the centralized operation of packing and dispatching electoral materials for more than 3000 polling stations in seven different districts.

The project trained a team of ten data operators on how to operate the candidate registration and results management systems during the pilot project conducted in Akkar governorate. Three team members were appointed as data input supervisors, with the mission of reviewing the candidate applications to prevent errors and make sure the digital records match the official Muhafaza figures, and printing the candidate application receipts.

After the training, the staff were able to:

- Enter candidate applications to the digital system by creating a unique file for each candidate
- Print receipts after checking the entered data
- Generate statistical reports with several breakdowns such as age, gender, municipality, etc.
- Withdraw candidacies based on official requests.

Based on the request of the MOIM and in preparation for 2017 parliamentary elections, the project developed a training strategy that was grounded on the lessons learned from previous elections as well as on the assessment the Infrastructure & Technical Capacity Assessment of RC/HRC Operating Environment. This training strategy highlights the background, scope, objectives and stakeholders of the envisaged training sessions and seminars that would be crucial for conducting an efficient and successful 2017 parliamentary election.

**1.6 Strengthened capacity for elections operations**

*Achievements*
Support to the Operation Room

Based on the request of the MOIM, the project assessed the status of the operation room and identified areas of improvement that would increase the capability and the efficiency of the operation room to handle electoral operations on Election Day. The main areas of improvements included:

- **Installation of UPS**
  The operation room was connected to one central UPS that had a low voltage capacity. This caused it to shut down if electricity went off for more than 10 minutes. Therefore, the project installed a UPS system in order to keep the flow of power and information going. The UPS was successfully installed at the server room of MOIM. It enabled the operation room to keep the servers, internet connection, firewalls, anti-viruses and internal LAN operational for two hours in case of an electricity outage.

- **Installation of an interactive touch board**
  The project procured and installed an interactive touch board that will be permanently installed in the operation room. This board offered a better interactive approach with information coming from the different districts, media and hotline operation center. Operation room staff used it to present information coming from the field, explain security plans and search for specific data. Furthermore, the project trained key staff of the operation room in order to learn about the different features that are beneficial for MOIM.

- **Installation of firewall**
  The project installed and activated a firewall that would protect the MOIM server, the operation room and the internal network from malwares and hacking attacks. This protection will last for two years and would cover the parliamentary elections scheduled to take place in 2017.

1.8 Election Management Lessons Learned

- Upon the successful completion of the Municipal and Mukhtar Elections (May 2016), the project initiated an internal after action/lessons learned exercise in order to assess the effectiveness of the electoral support and assistance provided, to identify challenges and areas that need further attention and suggest recommendations for future electoral processes such as the proposed Parliamentary Elections, due to take place in 2017. During the exercise, conducted in the first week of August, the entire LEAP team participated and contributed with comments and inputs around the following support and assistance areas:
  - Technical assistance to the electoral management and administration
• Support to voter education and awareness campaigns
• Support to the electoral dispute resolution system
• Support to the participation and representation of women

○ The project produced the lessons learned report for the 2016 municipal elections, which includes the main achievements, challenges, and recommendations to ensure that appropriate actions will be taken for the next parliamentary elections, it comprises a matrix of quantitative and qualitative indicators, that serves as a baseline for the 2016 municipal elections (see annex 3).

1.9 Support electoral operations preparations and delivery for municipal elections

The project provided technical and advisory assistance and operational/logistic support for the necessary preparations of the 2016 municipal elections as follows:

**Directorate General for Personal Status (DGPS)**

- ID’s media Campaign (Preparation, Production and launching) to encourage people to renew their IDs or to issue ID in case they did not do it yet. (ID is the main document needed to vote).
- Procurement of ten fingerprints stations for IDs Centers to facilitate issuing new IDs for voters.
- Procurement of forty LaserJet printers for the IDs Centers, all over Lebanon, to enhance the new ID applications’ procedures.

**Directorate General for Political Affairs and Refugees (DGPAR)**

- During the period of organization of the electoral processes for the municipal elections 2016, LEAP worked close with the DGPAR Director General and officers in terms of planning, resource allocation and contingency planning. The assessments included meetings to assess the readiness and preparedness of the various governmental and local stakeholders to conduct the required activities during voter registration update, candidate’s registration, polling and counting.
- During the actual implementation of the electoral operations, the MoIM requested LEAP to develop quality control mechanisms for election management responsibilities and provide assistance and support to Muqafaz and qaimaqams in the preparatory phases. In this context, for the last three phases, LEAP constituted, trained and deployed ten mobile support teams that worked closely with the Muqafaz, Qaimaqams and other local stakeholders in the organization and implementation of the necessary electoral processes. In addition, a checklist of
Opening/Polling/counting (assessment of Polling stations during the four phases) was developed and implemented with good results.

- The overall support to the DGPAR also included:
  - Development of mechanisms for delivering effective voter information for local elections, including information on municipal boundaries, publication of candidate registration and results data.
  - Voter Education media campaign (preparation, production and launching) to provide citizens with elections dates and information.
  - Printing and distributing of electoral materials (law books, training manuals, stickers).
  - Producing a training DVD for polling officials.
  - Installing and updating the candidate registration automated system for the parliamentary by-elections of Jezzine.
  - Assisting on disseminating electoral materials at the central warehouse and at the regional centers.
  - Installing and administration of the Accreditation Unit for Observers, Media and Special Visitors from international community and embassies, including receiving applications, producing and delivery badges.

1.10 Support electoral operations preparations and delivery for parliamentary elections

The project provided technical assistance and logistic support for the necessary preparations of the upcoming Jezzine by-elections as follows:

- The project provided technical assistance to DGPAR on drafting new Election Day procedures for Jezzine. As three races were taking place on the same day, each polling station had three ballot boxes. DGPAR drafted new election day procedures to make sure that the voting flow happens in an organized manner;
- The project operated the new digitized candidate registration system to receive candidate registration for the Jezzine by-elections at the ministry of interior and municipalities;
- The hotline operation team answered questions on the Jezzine by-elections coming from voters and heads of polling stations. The topics covered were: Names of candidates, Election Day Procedures, Counting and Tabulation.

OUTPUT TWO: CAPACITY FOR THE SUPERVISION OF ELECTION CAMPAIGNS INCREASED

LEAP has been unable to implement concrete activities under this component because
Parliamentary elections were delayed until June 2017 and there is no counterpart (SCEC members) the project can provide technical support to at the moment as part of an electoral-cycle-based approach.

2.1 Supporting preparations for strengthening SCEC capacity

NO Direct activities were undertaken under this activity

2.2 Improving the regulatory framework for campaign supervision

NO Direct activities were undertaken under this activity

### OUTPUT THREE: CAPACITY FOR VOTER EDUCATION AND PUBLIC PARTICIPATION INITIATIVES BUILT

3.1 Expanding access of local stakeholders to voter education and electoral knowledge

**Achievements**

**Public Awareness Campaign on Voter Registration Update**

In coordination with the Ministry of Interior and Municipalities, the project developed the 2016 public awareness campaign on voter registration update, which ran from 10 February to 10 March aiming to remind and encourage citizens to check the accuracy of their data on the voter register, in order to vote in the 2016 local elections.

The monitoring report sent by the advertising agency included the following findings:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Communication Channel</th>
<th>Number of Channels/Companies</th>
<th>Frequency</th>
<th>Additional Info</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>TV</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>598</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Radio</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>980</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cinema</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>1,500</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Billboard</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>386</td>
<td>568 Faces</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Magazine &amp; Newspapers</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>69</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Flyers</td>
<td></td>
<td>10,000</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Facebook</td>
<td></td>
<td>5,680 Likes</td>
<td>- Total reactions, comments &amp; shares:</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Voter Education Campaign

The project provided support to the MOIM in the development of the voter education public awareness campaign, which was launched on May 1st and lasted until the end of May. The campaign aimed at motivating citizens to participate in the electoral process and at promoting positive attitudes towards the electoral process and the MOIM. It promoted integrity, inclusiveness and transparency of the electoral process and directed a special focus to empower women and people with disabilities. The campaign included two TV Spots, five Radio Spots, Press ads, billboards, posters and flyers.

Electoral Information Kits

Following the request of the MoIM, the project produced and distributed the 2016 Municipal Elections Information Kit for embassies, donors and diplomatic corps; the toolkit included statistics and figures on the 2016 municipal and mukhtar elections, parliamentary and municipal laws in addition to the project publications (training manual, women’s guide to municipal and mukhtar councils 2016).

3.2 Inclusive and informed processes on changes to the electoral framework are in place

NO Direct activities were undertaken under this activity

OUTPUT FOUR: CAPACITY FOR THE RESOLUTION OF ELECTION DISPUTES IMPROVED

4.1 Supporting a transparent and accessible election dispute resolution mechanism

Achievements

Guide to Challenges & Complaints related to Municipal & Mukhtar Elections

The project developed in partnership with LADE a “Guide to Challenges & Complaints related to Municipal & Mukhtar Elections” (available in English and Arabic) and three infographic animation videos (Arabic with English subtitles) on the same topic. These materials were distributed and disseminated by LADE and UNDP LEAP and served as voter education materials on EDR mechanisms in municipal elections. (see annex 4)
EDR Workshop
The project organized an interactive training workshop for a number of LADE observers and board members on Observing EDR for the 2016 Lebanese Municipal Elections. The workshop took place on 2-3 May 2016. 15 participants attended the workshop and benefitted from the discussion which covered areas such as: international standards on EDR, the different phases of EDR in municipal elections, and practical aspects of EDR observation and reporting. A guidebook was produced based on the outcome of this workshop, to serve as a future reference for EDR observers.

4.2 Strengthened capacity for election dispute resolution

Achievements

- Strengthen the capacity of the Constitutional Council through the provision of continuous support to the Council in updating their website in preparation for the 2017 parliamentary elections.
- One of the main activities in this framework was to compile the decisions of the Constitutional Council (70% of which are related to electoral challenges) in one publication with a thematic research index based on a number of key words for each decision. This publication was issued in April 2015 in the original Arabic language, and the decisions were uploaded on the website www.cc.gov.lb. Upon the request of the Constitutional Council, and in the framework of the EDR component, the project is providing continued support to the Council in order to issue the compilation of decisions in the French language. The French compilation will serve as a tool for academic and professional exchange with the Council’s international counterparts, and will be made available as a reference for international election observers. The project has recruited a legal expert to oversee the translation of the decisions and the thematic index, and is in the process of recruiting a translator for this purpose. The French compilation is due to be published in Q1 2017.

OUTPUT FIVE: CAPACITY FOR WOMEN’S PARTICPATION IN ELECTIONS BUILT

5.1 Strengthened capacity on measures to improve women’s participation in elections

Achievements

Info Sessions
The project in partnership with UNSCOL, NDI and Women in Front conducted seven info sessions between March 29 and May 12, 2016. The objective of these sessions was to
provide potential women candidates with effective tools and materials to encourage them to run as candidates in the upcoming municipal elections. The sessions focused on the following subjects:

- General Introduction to the Municipal Councils;
- Running for Elections: Documents Required and Legal Timeframe;
- Electoral Campaign: Building Your Message - Defining and Communicating Your Campaign;

Around 600 women participated in the “Lebanese Women in Municipalities” info sessions that were conducted in Jounieh, Aley, Beirut, Chtaura, Tyr, Tripoli and Halba covering all the governorates of the Lebanon. It is worth mentioning that six of the women attendees were elected in the Municipal and Mukhtar elections 2016.

Furthermore, LEAP designed, produced and printed visibility materials as follows: folders, notebooks, business cards, posters, roll up banners and wall of fame. These materials, in addition to other publications related to women and elections, were used and distributed in the training sessions.

**Thematic media campaign**

Following the request of assistance from the Women in Parliament Coalition, the project developed and produced a thematic media campaign which entailed five different visuals with a total of 250 billboards, posters and flyers covering the eight governorates. Furthermore, LEAP added twelve LED screens to the campaign spread all over the Great Beirut since most Lebanese reside and work. The campaign focused on women and elections, and it included the following messages:

- Encouraging women to run as candidates for the upcoming municipal elections;
- Motivating voters to vote for women candidates.

The campaign was launched in the third week of April during the candidate registration phase. It comprised of five visuals of women (PWD- inclusive) from different regions, age groups and social backgrounds. It is important to note that the selected advertising agency produced a complimentary small clip that was on social media and shared by all partners and stakeholders to boost the media campaign.

**Women and Municipalities Guide**

The project published a guide in Arabic and English on Women and Municipalities. The guide included a simplified reading of the Municipalities Law and the Ikhtiyariah Law. The manual also consisted of questions and answers about the candidate’s eligibility and the documents needed to run for elections and it included numbers and infographs about women participation as candidates in 2010 Municipal Elections. The publication was accompanied...
by a short movie that had the same content using 2D animation and illustration. It included three short animated clips (Introduction, Q&A and numbers and infographs). The Women and Municipalities guide as well as the short animated movie were used as a toolkit for trainings and info sessions that were held in the regions. It is worth noting that more than 1,500 copies of the Arabic version of the Women and Municipalities guide were disseminated during the month of April and another 1,000 copies were distributed during the month of May. The guide was dispersed to the Lebanese Association for Democratic Elections (LADE), women NGOs, CSOs, women candidates and woman sector in various political parties. Moreover, the three short animations clips (Introduction to Municipal and Mukhtar councils, Q&A on how to run for elections and numbers and figures of women participation in Municipal and Mukhtar councils in 2010) were profoundly broadcasted (pro bono) on five major Lebanese TV channels and were used for news bulletin reports as well. Thus, these products succeeded not only in serving the gender component but also the voter education component on the national level (see annex 5).

**Workshop for Elected Women Municipal Council Members and Mukhtars in South-West Lebanon**

In the context of the support provided by UNDP LEAP to the strengthening of the women participation in the political life and elections, the project was invited to be part of a workshop organized on 19 August by UNIFIL SW Civil Affairs and Military teams with women elected municipal councilors and mukhtars in the recently concluded local elections. The workshop targeted the women elected in more than 21 southern villages of Tyre and Bint Jbeil Cazas. During the workshop, in which over 45 elected women participated, LEAP team presented some aspects of the role and importance of women engagement in elections as part of the broader campaign of increasing women representation in elected institutions. Moreover, LEAP team presented some key results on women participation of the 2016 municipal elections and comparative figures of the 2016 and 2010 municipal elections. A short movie on success stories of elected women in previous rounds as a support to the awareness campaign was streamed during the workshop.

**Brochure: Women in Municipal Elections**

For the Post Election phase, the project prepared a brochure on Women in Municipal Elections 2016. This brochure comprises all key results and gender breakdown of the Municipal and Mukhtars Elections 2016. It includes comparative figures of the Municipal Election 2010/2016. The design of the brochure contains info graphs and illustration that demonstrate all the numbers and figures in a clear appealing way. This publication will serve as a model for stakeholders, researchers and women CSOs to analyse the data and endorse some measures that will increase women participation in future elections and other gender issues. The brochure was disseminated in soft and hard copies (see annex 6).

**Thematic Booklet Women in Municipal Elections – UNIFIL Area of Operations 2016**

The project in partnership with UNIFIL AO designed and published a thematic brochure focused on the results of the recently conducted 2016 municipal elections with a special
emphasis on the women elected in municipal councils and as mukhtars. The brochure is mainly highlighting the results registered in the third wave of the municipal elections for South Lebanon and Nabatieh, corresponding to 147 villages covered by the UNIFIL area of operations (Sour, Bent Jbeil, Marjaaouin and Hasbaya). The design of this brochure complements the first issue of “the women in municipalities 2016” produced in June but contains a mapping of the results tailored fit to the UNIFIL area of operations. This publication will be distributed and disseminated during nine training sessions held in the South for elected women aiming at building their capacities (see annex 7).

II Changes at the National Level (Max 0.5 page)

Despite all political uncertainties, the project was able to prepare and implement effectively the 2016 municipal elections; the conduct of credible, transparent and inclusive elections had a direct impact on the national level in terms of:

- Voter turnout
- Number of reached citizens through the voter education campaign
- Number of challenges/complaints
- Increase in number of women standing as candidates for the 2016 municipal elections

As a direct result of the successful conduct of the municipal elections nationwide, 12234 municipal council members and 2922 mukhtars were elected and are now in place.

III Challenges in Implementation (Max 0.5 page)

During this reporting period, the project faced challenges in the preparation and conduct of the 2016 municipal elections such as:

- limited operational planning and technical capacities including:
  - The lack of formal training for the electoral officials, polling officials and stakeholders.
  - Delay in Procurement, deployment, distribution and retrieval of electoral materials.
  - The lack of proper planning for the deployment of polling officials to their respective areas/polling stations.
  - The lack of proper procurement needs assessment.

- Limited access to electoral data by stakeholders and voters
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- Limited procedures and public awareness to improve electoral access by persons with disabilities
- Limited information disseminated in the voter education campaign and delays were reported in its implementation.
- Limited dissemination and coverage of the electoral information and awareness campaigns in the national outlets and social media.
- Limited information disseminated on EDR due to the lack of previous comprehensive studies on this topic especially for municipal elections in Lebanon.
- Limited level of knowledge and understanding of the role and importance of women participation in politics, particularly at local and regional level.

IV Project Targets

- Successful pilot of the CRRM installed in Akkar governorate for the 2016 municipal elections (4200 processed applications, 128 municipal races processed and 773 mukhtar races processed).
- Improved candidate registration system installed for the 2016 Jezzine by-elections.
- 3310 eligible observers and media received accreditation.
- All polling stations received polling manual (33000).
- 20 election officials received core training.
- List of recommendations for the future elections is published.
- The project supported the MoIM to deliver effective voter education.
- Inclusive and informed voter awareness campaigns were organized including voter registration update campaign, ID campaign and voter education campaign.
- Informed and inclusive debates organized on changes to election legislation.
- Increase levels of awareness on EDR (15 participants attended the workshop organized to raise awareness on EDR for the 2016 municipal elections).
- EDR Outreach materials are made available (1500 guidebooks distributed).
- Increase number of women standing as candidates (1.3% increase in number of women running for municipal council and 2.4% increase in number of women running for mukhtar).

V Gender Results

In the reporting period, one of the focus areas of the Project was the Women participation...
and representation in the 2016 municipal elections aimed to:

- Encourage women to run as candidates for the upcoming municipal elections and inform them on how to run and conduct elections campaigns.
- Strengthen knowledge of municipality officials on the women participation importance and the impact on the inclusiveness of the upcoming elections.
- Motivate voters to vote for women in municipal elections.
- Create synergies between UNDP projects, NGOs, CSOs and other international organizations working in this area.

As a result of these concerted efforts the following target groups were receiving briefings, trainings, info sessions supported by the project:

- Potential women candidates
- Officials from Municipal Councils
- CSOs and NGOs representatives working in this area
- Citizens and voters

Concerning gender results for the 2016 municipal elections, the project developed a dedicated brochure, which includes comparative data of women registered in the voter’s roll, candidates and women elected for municipalities and mukhtar positions. This publication shows an increase in terms of women participation in comparison with the 2010 municipal elections (refer back to the brochure), the brochure will also serve as a model for stakeholders, researchers and women CSO’s to analyze the data and endorse measures to increase women participation in future elections and address other gender issues.

### VI Youth Engagement

**N/A**

### VII National Capacities

In terms of development of national capacities through project support, the programs and activities developed and implemented in 2015 and 2016 had a direct impact at the level of institutional functioning and delivery down to the enhanced capacity of individual officers to better fulfill their roles and responsibilities in the electoral area.

In this context, the successful conduct of the municipal elections proved that key results have been achieved in the area of institutional strengthening of the main project stakeholder MoIM in terms of:

- Effective internal processes and operations in preparation to the municipal elections
Effect and accessible communication tools and mechanisms
Comprehensive thematic awareness and information campaigns
Increased understanding of new trends and developments in the area of electoral standards and good practices.

The lessons learned exercise identified and consolidated priorities and lines of action and the consequent recommendations for the development of the national capacities. In addition, the lessons learned underlined best practices during the conduct of the municipal elections that should be replicated for the organization of the upcoming parliamentary elections.

The project will continue to provide support and assistance to other national stakeholders, following the electoral cycle approach, with a particular focus on sustainability of the results and efficiency of the interventions.

### VIII Social and Environmental Standards

N/A

### IX South-South Cooperation and or Triangular Cooperation

The project in partnership with UNSCOL, NDI and Women in Front conducted seven info sessions between March 29 and May 12, 2016. The objective of these sessions was to provide potential women candidates with effective tools and materials to encourage them to run as candidates in the upcoming municipal elections. The sessions focused on the following subjects:

- General Introduction to the Municipal Councils;
- Running for Elections: Documents Required and Legal Timeframe;
- Electoral Campaign: Building Your Message - Defining and Communicating Your Campaign;

The project in partnership with LADE developed a brochure and two infographic animation videos that will serve as voter education materials on EDR mechanisms in municipal elections.
Course on Electoral Systems: A Comparative Perspective (17-19 October)

The project in partnership with UNDP Regional Office (based in Jordan) and Saint Joseph University (USJ) organized a three days course on electoral systems led by international electoral expert Professor Rafael López-Pintor. The course was designed to include relevant presentations, debates and discussions around the electoral systems from the academic and practitioner perspectives. A mix of USJ students from the Master Program, LADE members and UNDP staff in Beirut and Jordan participated in the course and received a certificate of completion. Participants were unanimously satisfied with the course as they acquired the intended skills and knowledge and would recommend this course to others.

X Durability of Results

The post-elections lessons learned report provides an assessment of the strengths and achievements of the project, in terms of effectiveness of the support and assistance provided to the elections management and administration body. In this regard, the project provided efficient and timely assistance to the MoIM in the implementation of electoral operations, logistics and this good practice should be replicated for the 2017 parliamentary elections.

In terms of building the capacity for voter education, the project supported the MoIM in the design and implementation of effective awareness campaigns in which the dissemination through media outlets reached a large number of the Lebanese voters and citizens. The lessons learned revealed that this intervention should be scaled up in order to increase participation, voter turn-out and understanding of the voters in the process.

In terms of building awareness on EDR the project developed and disseminated infographic animations clips presenting the aspects of EDR and complaint channels applicable for local elections. Also the civil society working in the area of EDR have been trained and supported through workshops, trainings and dissemination of thematic publications.

In terms of building awareness to improve women’s participation in elections, the project during this year focused on building effective partnership and cooperation with CSO’s, NGO’s and international organizations having the same aim of strengthening women participation for the 2016 municipal elections. Furthermore the project produced and disseminated various information toolkits including a guide for women to vote and run for the 2016 municipal elections, as for the 2017 parliamentary elections, similar campaigns shall be produced focusing on gender quota and encouraging political parties to nominate women party members for the upcoming parliamentary elections.

XI Publications/annexes

Annex 1

Annex 2


Annex 6: Gender key Results-Municipal Elections 2016
Produced and published by LEAP
Define how your project is contributing to the selected SDG

By allowing the genuine participation of all citizens, elections are crucial in promoting and achieving the SDG’s, in this regard the project is able to promote gender equality and empower all women and girls through building women capacity to participate in elections. Furthermore, through the conduct of fair democratic elections, which is a transformative tool for democratic governance, the project is able to promote peaceful and inclusive societies development, provide access to justice for all and build effective accountable and inclusive institutions at all level.

If your project has led work on SDGs at large, also describe the contribution and related results

From the below list, select a maximum of 3 SDGs that your project is promoting

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Goal</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>End poverty in all its forms everywhere</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### Annex 1 – Evidence Used

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Short reference for source of evidence</th>
<th>Full title</th>
<th>Date of publication</th>
<th>Author</th>
<th>Link (if available)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

- **Goal 9: Work for all**
- **Goal 10: Build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization and foster innovation**
- **Goal 11: Reduce inequality within and among countries**
- **Goal 12: Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable**
- **Goal 13: Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns**
- **Goal 14: Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts**
- **Goal 15: Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development**
- **Goal 16: Protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, and halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss**
- **Goal 17: Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels**
- **Goal 18: Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the global partnership for sustainable development**