

Elections Assistance Bulletin

The Sudan Elections Assistance Bulletin is released by the *UNDP Support to Elections and Democratic Processes* to provide updates on electoral activities and operations of key stakeholders.

Voter Registration: November 2009

Location	Registered	Eligible (census)
Northern Sudan (15 states)	11,655,513	16,479,090
Southern Sudan (10 states)	4,680,640	4,213,041
Sudan Total (25 states)	16,336,153	20,692,131
Out of Country	70,657	
Grand Total	16,406,810	

Out of country

Location	Registered
UAE	7,825
Yemen	623
Qatar	5,865
Egypt	1,750
Saudi Arabia	49,929
Oman	1,330
Brussels (EU)	188
Uganda	80
South Africa	67
Libya	3,000



Women displaying registration slips in El Fasher
(Photo by Mary An/UNDP)

The National Elections Commission (NEC) reported registration of over 16.4 million voters throughout Sudan from Nov 1 through Dec 7, 2009. This is 79% of just over 20 million eligible voters determined by the 2008 census exercise. World Bank estimates Sudan's total population to be roughly 40 million. In the total figure, roughly 11.66 million were registered in the north of Sudan, and 4.68 million registered south.

The establishment of roughly 3,600 partially-mobile registration sites and the administration of the registration process was carried out by the NEC with offices located in all 25 Sudanese states. The Commission planned this event with the support of UNDP, the United Nations Mission in Sudan, International Foundation for Electoral Systems (IFES), and the donor community.

With the support of UNDP, UNMIS, and IFES, NEC developed a strategy and budget for all electoral activities such as registration and polling. In terms of material support for registration, UNDP transported all materials such as NEC-procured registration forms and 3,996 UNDP-procured registration kits to state capitals. To establish the South Sudan High Committee and 25 NEC high state committees, UNDP also provided equipment such as generators, computers, and vehicles.

Elections Time-frame

Date	Election Process
Jan 12-27 (16 days)	Submission of candidates' applications
Jan 27	Closing date of all nomination levels at 6 pm
Jan 30	Publication of candidates' names
Jan 31-Feb 6 (8 days)	Appeals to courts by candidates whose nominations were rejected
Feb 2-8 (7 days)	Courts decisions
Feb 10	Final publication of candidates' names
Feb 12	Last day of withdrawal of nomination at all levels
Feb 13-April 9 (57 days)	Period of election campaign
April 11-18	Polling, sorting and announcement of results
Second Round Elections for President of the Republic and President of Southern Sudan if necessary:	
May 10-11	Polling, sorting and announcement of results



Voter Registration Launch in the South
(Photo by Dan Malinovich/IFES)

Electoral Activities At-a-Glance:

Nomination of Candidates:

Nomination of candidates for all levels of elections took place from January 12-27 with the breakdown below:

Appeals by candidates whose nominations were rejected took place from Jan 31 to Feb 6, 2010 and the final publication of lists was issued on Feb. 10, 2010. Forty five political parties submitted party and women proportional representation lists for the National Assembly Election.

	Total nominations	By political party	By independents
President of the Republic	12	10	2
President of GOSS	2	2	0
25 State Governor	185	139	46
450 Nat. Constituencies	2,317	1,909	408



Polling will occur at or near sites of registration like this schoolhouse in Nyala, Darfur
(Photo by Mary An/UNDP)

Polling and Counting:

Polling will take place from 11-13 April 2010 from 8:00 to 18:00 daily at or near the registration site. At each site, NEC will post lists of voters with corresponding serial numbers given at registration. In the north, voters will mark and cast 8 separate ballot papers:

- 2 for executive seats,
- 3 for National Assembly, and
- 3 for State Assemblies.

In the south, voters will mark and cast 12 separate ballot papers,

- 3 for executive seats,
- 3 for National Assembly,
- 3 for Southern Sudan Assembly, and
- 3 for the State Assemblies.

Electoral staff will carry out the counting of votes at the end of the three polling days. Political party agents, national and international observers can witness polling and counting. The results for each polling center will be posted at the respective site. However, NEC has sole authorization to announce the final national result.

Did you know? UNDP will support NEC with the procurement of roughly 196 million ballot papers and 120,000 ballot boxes. NEC with support from UNDP, UNMIS, and IFES will train 120,000 polling staff.

Civic and Voter Education:

UNDP partnered with International Organization for Migration (IOM) to develop and manage small and medium sized grants for Sudanese and international civil society organizations (CSOs). These grants support civic and voter education activities throughout Sudan to raise awareness for elections and democratic processes among the population. By the end of February, roughly 2.5 million USD total of grants will be disbursed to groups working in all 25 states in Sudan supporting activities around both the November registration and the upcoming April polling.

Accompanying the grant distribution, UNDP and IOM holds trainings on civic education methodology and the details of the electoral processes.



UNDP's Tanja Hollstein describing polling steps to grantees in Khartoum (Photo by Mary An/UNDP)

Electoral Activities At-a-Glance:

Civic Education Materials:

Civic Education materials, produced in English and Arabic, will inform the Sudanese public of electoral activities. NEC, with the support of UNDP, UNMIS and IFES, produced materials promoting visibility including 24,000 posters, 24,000 stickers, 16,000 each of t-shirts, bags and caps to be worn by civic educators when they carry out awareness activities for the upcoming polling in April. Additionally, UNDP, UNMIS and NEC produced 800 flipcharts and 1600 flip-chart training manuals to communicate Sudan's complex polling procedures throughout 25 states.



Juba registration bag

In the South, UNDP and Southern Sudan High Committee prepared regionally-tailored materials to be delivered to all counties in coordination with UNMIS, the National Democratic Institute, UNIFEM, the 10 state high committees and CSOs.



Flip Chart Page: The Polling process
(Courtesy of NEC)

Political Parties Affairs Council

Since April 2009, the Political Parties Affairs Council (PPAC) has registered 84 political parties. With the support of the UN and international NGOs, PPAC holds informational workshops in Khartoum and Juba to provide accurate information for political parties on their electoral role. Recently, PPAC organized a workshop on the nomination of candidates on 10, January 2010. Here, political party representatives learned the details of the nomination and subsequent appeals process. For the November registration process, the International Republic Institute (IRI) and UNDP conducted training workshops to 35 political parties agents to outline the role and responsibilities of party agents at registration sites. Similar workshops will take place both north and south to clarify responsibility of party agents at sites during polling. Alongside these efforts, PPAC is developing a Code of Conduct for political parties for campaigning.

UNDP provides technical support to PPAC to develop the Council's overarching work plan and these trainings. In terms of material assistance, UNDP and PPAC are establishing a resource centre for political parties located in Khartoum to centralize useful information and training materials. In January 2010, UNDP handed over to PPAC in Khartoum furniture, office equipment and 4 vehicles to support the implementation of their work.



Party Agent Training Workshop in Juba
(Photo by Natia Kashakashvili/UNDP)

Domestic Observation: The Carter Center

The Carter Center (TCC) began implementing the UNDP-funded "Engaging Sudanese Civil Society in the Electoral Process" (ESCSEP) in Khartoum and Juba in October 2009. With 3 CSO network partners, TCC supported deployment of over 300 domestic observers in Sudan, with 152 observers to 9 northern states and 160 observers to 9 southern states. Prior to deployment, TCC staff assisted CSOs to develop and implement individual registration observation plans. TCC also held 5 training sessions on election observation methodology. Following the observation missions,

TCC conducted debriefing sessions with each partner to assist in the analysis of collected data. Each partner produced registration observation reports detailing the strengths and areas critical to the registration process.

Looking ahead to April, TCC will support their 3 CSO network partners to plan independent observation strategies to deploy a combined 3,000 domestic observers for polling and counting. TCC will introduce a "sub-grant" mechanism for CSOs within its ESCSEP network for the polling period.

Media Monitoring and Journalist Training kicks-off in Sudan

A consortium of 6 national and international organizations will provide media monitoring throughout the elections period from campaigning to the announcement of polling results. With the support of UNDP, experts from International Media Support (IMS) are establishing media monitoring centers in Khartoum and Juba where local teams will monitor the mainstream media (including radio, television and print) on elections coverage. Throughout the month of February, IMS trained monitors on technicalities such as identifying hate speech and airtime quotas for candidates.

Alongside media monitoring, IMS will bring in a professional cadre of journalists from Arab and African countries to hold training sessions on election reporting. 13 workshops will be held in the end of February to train to train 300 journalists on elections reporting skills and techniques. These foreign journalists will remain in country to “mentor” Sudan’s journalists at their respective media station or office.



State radio sound studio in Gedaref
(Photo by Mary An/UNDP)

The Gender Focus in Elections Support



From the 2009 registration period, UNIFEM has worked to support women as voters and as candidates. UNIFEM employs a multi-faceted approach engaging government institutions, civil society, and media:

Gender & Political Parties Affairs Council (PPAC) - UNIFEM and PPAC launch a project for women in political parties with a workshop in Medani, Gezira where 21 parties representatives discussed the gender implications of the code of conduct and to develop a women’s elections agenda. Workshops also took place in South Darfur and Blue Nile.

Support to the National Elections Commission (NEC) - A UNIFEM Gender Advisor was established within the National Elections Commission to ensure inclusion of the gender-perspective in policy and planning. For instance, the Advisor is reviewing NEC media procedures to guarantee the gender dimension.

Civil Society Activities— UNIFEM lobbied NEC to accredit gender-based CSOs to monitor elections from a gender perspective.

Targeting gender in the Media— In partnership with Ministry of Communication, UNIFEM commissioned public outreach targeting women through radio and television. With the Sudan Academy for Media Science, UNIFEM held a 3 day workshop for 40 senior journalist and editors in January. Other efforts include a mobile van publicizing election activities in IDP Khartoum camps, and a theater show addressing the importance of voting for women candidates.

Elections Assistance Basket Fund

UNDP manages the elections assistance basket fund which holds roughly 70.45 million USD of generous contributions. NEC, UNDP, and donors meet regularly to make decisions for elections support.

Partner	USD (million)	Partner	USD (million)
Italy	2.8	Spain	1
DFID	15.5	Japan	10
Norway	5.5	European Union	12
Denmark	7.8	Netherlands	7.4
Sweden	7.0	France	1.5
		Total	70.5

