

SPECIAL EDITION-PARLIAMENTARY ELECTIONS 2018



EDITORIAL

Since 2005, the United Nations in Lebanon has been providing electoral assistance to the government. In 2012, the recent UNDP Lebanese Elections Assistance Project has focused its efforts towards the successful organization of free and fair parliamentary elections.

After five years of delay and three extensions of the mandate of the parliament, parliamentary elections were finally organized on May 6th, 2018. These elections were conducted under a new electoral law, which among other changes, included 15 electoral districts, and a proportional representation system with a preferential vote.

In terms of political participation, the 2018 parliamentary elections were characterized by a relatively low voter turnout of 49.7 percent nationally with "Beirut 1" registering the lowest (33.19 percent) and "Mount Lebanon 1" the highest turnout (67.09 percent). With an estimated number of more than a million voters who are not residing in the country, the turnout remained lower than in previous elections (52 percent in 2009).

For the first time, 82,970 Lebanese voters residing abroad, have casted their votes. Whilst out of country voting has remained modest, this new measure will pave the way for greater participation of registered voters living abroad.

These elections introduced important reforms, including the use of preprinted ballot, to ensure secrecy of voting, as well as out of country voting.

For the past six years, with the support of the European Union and more recently USAID, UNDP Electoral Assistance Project has been providing technical assistance to the Ministry of Interior and Municipalities on the organization of parliamentary elections. It has also supported the Supervisory Commission on Elections on the monitoring of media and campaign financing, as well as the Constitutional Council and the Shura Council on elections disputes.

The project also included the training of thousands of polling officials, the automation of candidates and a list of registration systems, the implementation of an automated result management system, the voters' education campaigns as well as the technical support to women's participation and representation.

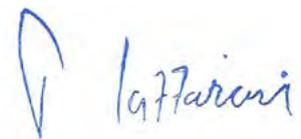
Despite an increased level of electoral competitiveness with the total number of candidates jumping to 976, including 113 women candidates, women still, remain under represented. The increase of women candidates from 12 in 2009 to 86 (14.4%) in 2018, was not reflected in the number of seats won by women. The increase of women representation in parliament increased from 4 to 6 seats in 2018. This is a strong evidence that there is still a need to introduce special temporary measures, such as the quota, to increase women representation.

Another area that would require special attention in the years to come, is the safeguard of the rights to vote of people with disabilities, through accessible of polling stations.

Most importantly, the years to come should be an opportunity for the newly elected parliament to build trust with citizens, to ensure increased voters' participation and consolidation of democratic elections.

The UN will continue to support electoral reforms in Lebanon, which is strategically linked to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goal no. 16 "Peace, Justice, and Strong Institutions" as well as to the Sustainable Development goals no. 5 on achieving Gender Equality. Both goals are key to achieve the 2030 Development Agenda in Lebanon.

The 2018 parliamentary elections were a step forward, and UNDP with the support of its partners, will assess the lessons learned from the 2018 elections, to develop the appropriate and most relevant priority areas of intervention towards achieving electoral reforms, democratic stability and participatory governance in Lebanon.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, consisting of a stylized initial 'V' followed by the name 'Laffarini'.

UNDP LEAP SUPPORT TO THE 2018 PARLIAMENTARY ELECTIONS



49.7%
NATIONAL VOTER
TURNOUT

On May 6th 2018, Lebanese citizens went to the polls to elect their new parliament for the first time since 2009, based on a new electoral proportional system. The national voter turnout reached 49.7% in the 15 electoral districts. Lebanese voters casted their votes using the preprinted ballot, a reform that was adopted to ensure voting secrecy and, hence, reduce vote-buying. The total number of candidates was 597, including 86 women candidates (14.4%), competing in 77 lists.

And for the first time, 82,970 registered Lebanese nationals residing abroad had the opportunity to exercise their right to vote. On April 27 and 29, turnout rate reached 59% for Lebanese expats voting in 40 foreign countries.

UNDP LEAP Assistance

Throughout the preparation of these historic elections, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), through the Lebanese Elections Assistance Project (LEAP), provided technical assistance and advisory support to the Ministry of Interior and Municipalities (MoIM) and the Supervisory Commission for Elections (SCE) to organize and conduct the required electoral processes according to international standards.

UNDP LEAP supported the MoIM mainly in enhancing the elections' operations and management capacity by providing technical assistance in various electoral areas including training of polling officers and registration committees, automation of candidates and list registration systems, developing and implementing the result management system, establishing a hotline call center, procuring elections materials such as ballot boxes, and polling booths, designing and printing voter education materials and campaign, amongst others.

The project also supported SCE in the electoral monitoring and supervision activities through a monitoring system of the media and candidates'/ lists' campaigns as well as institutional strengthening of the Commission.

Furthermore, UNDP LEAP supported the Constitutional Council in enhancing its administrative capacities to facilitate their work during the post parliamentary elections period where the council is expecting to receive electoral challenges.

Under the framework of Voter Education, UNDP LEAP developed and produced several awareness campaigns targeting the public at large, women and youth, aiming at encouraging them to participate in elections.

UNDP LEAP also collaborated and partnered with UN agencies and UNDP projects, as well as civil society to enhance women's participation, as candidates and voters, in elections in an effective way.

In the same context, the project conducted several info sessions targeting women and youth across the country to provide them with information on the new electoral law.

Following the successful conduct of the parliamentary elections, the post elections period will focus on the lessons learned and on ways to approach the challenges faced, particularly those related to the accessibility of people with disabilities and women's participation in the political life.

For more information on the support that UNDP LEAP provided, check the [video](#).

UNDP LEAP is funded by the European Union and US Agency for International Development.



AUTOMATION OF THE CANDIDATE REGISTRATION & RESULT MANAGEMENT SYSTEMS

ELECTRONIC RESULT MANAGEMENT SYSTEM

The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), Lebanese Elections Assistance Project (LEAP) provided support to the Ministry of Interior and Municipalities (MoIM) in developing a modern and reliable electronic electoral Results Management System (RMS).

The system includes the work process of the Registration Committees (RCs) and Higher Registration Committees (HRCs), development of the results calculation algorithm, and polling center's data import.

[Read more...](#)



ENHANCING THE CAPACITY OF ELECTORAL OFFICIALS

Training the electoral officials and relevant stakeholders is an essential part of each election. Hence, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) - Lebanese Elections Assistance Project (LEAP), supported the Ministry of Interior and Municipalities (MoIM) in the development and conduct of electoral procedure trainings for polling officials.

UNDP LEAP training experts assisted the MoIM in developing and implementing a cascade training in order to build the capacity of polling officials on electoral procedures. From February to April 2018, 810 sessions were conducted nationwide, and over 15,000 polling officers were trained. This training played a significant role in ensuring that election procedures are implemented in accurate and consistent ways throughout every polling station nationwide.

[Read more...](#)

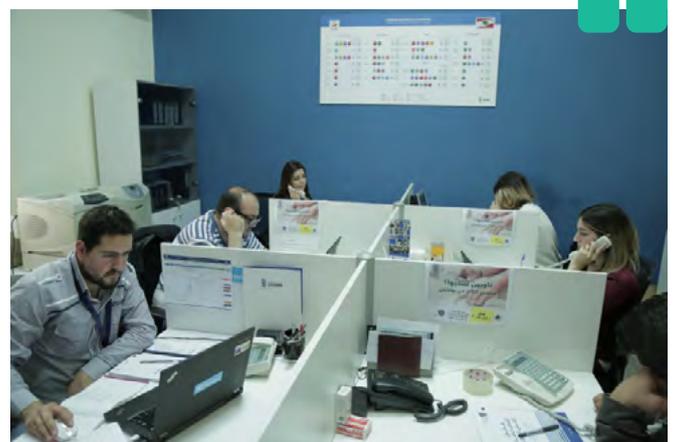


1766 Call Center at the Service of the Public

The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) - Lebanese Elections Assistance Project (LEAP) established and supported a call center at the premises of the Ministry of Interior and Municipalities (MoIM) to receive and answer calls from the Lebanese citizens: voters, candidates, polling staff; and to provide them with needed information.

UNDP LEAP recruited and trained a team of UN Volunteers to serve as hotline operators during the voter registration update and electoral periods.

On E-Day, the call center received and answered 7335 calls from polling officers: 85% were general enquiries and 15% reported on missing items. [Read more...](#)





Launching a Gender Roadmap To increase Women's Participation in Elections

In preparation for the parliamentary elections, the Office of the Minister of State for Women's Affairs (OMSWA), in partnership with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) Lebanese Elections Assistance Project (LEAP), the European Union and the UN Women in Lebanon, launched a gender roadmap during the "Fostering the role of political parties to promote women's representation in the upcoming Parliamentary elections 2018" workshop on Wednesday 17th of January in Beirut.

Aiming to enhance the meaningful participation of women in elections, the joint roadmap presented alternatives, other than quota, to increase women's participation in politics and help in advocating and influencing public behaviour to support the inclusion of women in public life. [Read more...](#)



Training Women Candidates & Voters for the 2018 Parliamentary Elections

Under the framework of "Lebanese Women in Elections" initiative, the United Nations Development Programme - Lebanese Elections Assistance Project, the UN Women and "Women in Front" NGO conducted info sessions across Lebanon aiming to encourage women candidates and voters to participate in the parliamentary elections.

Eight info sessions were conducted from January 24th to March 2nd, before the closing of the candidate registration on March 7th, in different regions such as: Rayfoun, Sin El Fil, Chtaura, Tripoli, Saida, Zgharta, Baakline, and Beirut.

[Read more...](#)



Youth and Elections Awareness Sessions

As part of a broader Get-Out-the-Vote voter education campaign, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) - Lebanese Elections Assistance Project (LEAP), in partnership with the "Lebanese Association for Democratic Elections" (LADE), conducted six info sessions in five universities between 5 and 24 April.

The overall objective of the awareness sessions was to increase young people's motivation and preparedness to participate constructively in elections. [Read more...](#)



STATISTICS & FIGURES



2018 Parliamentary Elections Results

49.7%

**NATIONAL
VOTER
TURNOUT**

6

**WOMEN
ELECTED**
(4.7%)

WOMEN MEMBERS
OF THE PARLIAMENT 2018

PAULA YACOUBIAN
Journalist - Independent

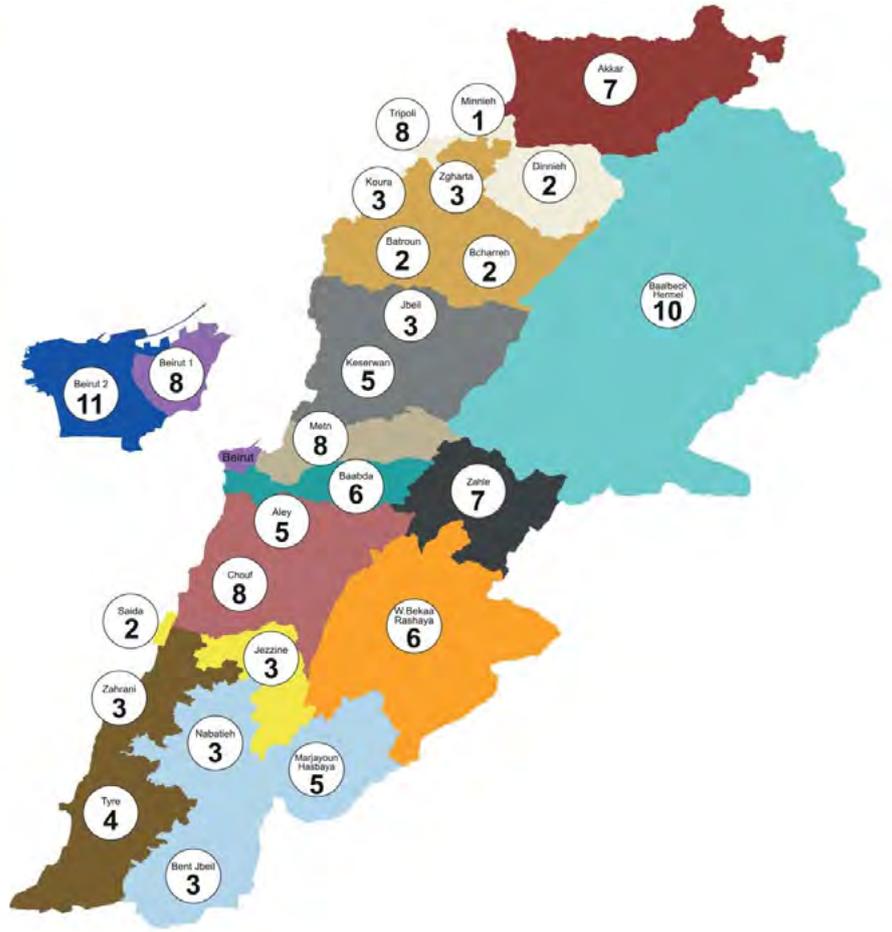
ROLA TABSH JAROUDI
Lawyer - Future Movement

DIMA JAMALI
University Professor - Future Movement

BAHIA HARIRI
Member of Parliament - Former Minister of Education - Future Movement

STRIDA GEAGEA
Member of Parliament - Lebanese Forces

INAYA EZZEDDINE
Pathologist - Minister of State for Administrative Reforms - Amal Movement



[Click here to see the 2018 Parliamentary Elections Full Results >>](#)

2018 Parliamentary Elections in Figures and Numbers



2018
PARLIAMENTARY ELECTIONS
FIGURES & NUMBERS



77 LISTS

597
CANDIDATES

86 WOMEN
14.4%



[Click here to see the animated Figures and Numbers >>](#)

[Click here to see the animated Figures and Numbers >>](#)



Get out the Vote Media Awareness Campaign



On the 16th of April, UNDP LEAP developed and launched a public media awareness campaign - "Get out the Vote" - aiming to encourage the young and first-time voters to participate in the parliamentary elections. The campaign stressed on the importance of the youth participation in the electoral process and aimed at providing and reminding the citizens of the essential electoral information on how to vote.

Youth & Elections TVC

Enhancing Women's Participation in Elections Media Awareness Campaign



UNDP LEAP in partnership with the Ministry of Women's Affairs, EU and UN Women launched on the 10th of January a public media awareness campaign to enhance the role of Lebanese women for effective and meaningful participation in the 2018 Parliamentary Elections.

- **First phase** promoted women's participation in elections;
- **Second phase** endorsed women as candidates;
- **Third phase** promoted women as voters.

Voter Information Media Campaign



Complementing the comprehensive voter education campaign that the Ministry of Interior and Municipalities developed, UNDP LEAP supported the Ministry in developing an awareness sub campaign targeting the out of country voters and people with disabilities. The campaign aimed to encourage them to participate in elections through providing the necessary information on how to vote.

Video 1

Video 2

Voter Registration Update Media Awareness Campaign



On February 1st, UNDP LEAP supported the Ministry of Interior & Municipalities – Directorate General of Civil Status, in developing and launching a public media awareness campaign to remind citizens of their legal right to check the accuracy of their data on the voter register before 1st of March.

TVC



Women's Guide to Parliamentary Elections 2018



In the framework of supporting women's participation in political life, UNDP LEAP developed a guide entitled "Women's Guide to Parliamentary Elections 2018", in [English](#) and [Arabic](#).

The guide comprises a simplified reading of the Electoral Law 44/2017 and gives emphasis to information related to the voting system, voter's and candidate's eligibility, the documents needed to run for elections, lists registration, ballot papers and preferential vote.

Complaints and Challenges related to Parliamentary Elections 2018



Within the framework of increasing public awareness on election dispute resolution, UNDP LEAP developed a guide on "Complaints and Challenges related to Parliamentary Elections 2018" in [Arabic](#) and [English](#).

This guide aims at providing citizens, as well as other stakeholders involved in elections, with useful information on the main types of complaints and claims that might occur during the different phases of the parliamentary elections, and especially during the challenges period.

Political Participation of PWD in Lebanon



UNDP LEAP, in partnership with the Lebanese Physical Handicapped Union (LPHU), developed a guide on the "Political Participation of PWD in Lebanon" in [English](#) and [Arabic](#).

This guide aims to present a statistical overview regarding the status of persons with disability in Lebanon, the legal framework that governs their political rights, and recommendations for the way forward.



UNDP LEAP Documentary

UNDP LEAP developed and produced a documentary highlighting the work that the project provided to support and assist the 2018 Parliamentary Elections. To view the video, click [here](#).



Animation Clips for Out of Country Voting

In the framework of supporting the out of country voting electoral procedures, UNDP LEAP supported the Ministry of Interior and Municipalities in developing and producing animated videos focused on the [out of country voting and counting procedures](#), and the [Registration Committees' tasks](#) for the out of country voting



EDR Awareness Animated Videos

In the framework of increasing public awareness on elections dispute resolution, UNDP LEAP developed a series of four animation videos on the main types of complaints and challenges that might occur during the different periods of the 2018 Parliamentary Elections.

1. Complaints related to the Electoral Campaign: Electoral Funding and Spending
2. Complaints related to the Electoral Campaign: Electoral Media and Advertising
3. Complaints arising from E-Day
4. Challenging the Validity of Election



Gender Awareness Animated Videos

In the framework of enhancing women's participation in elections, UNDP LEAP developed four animated videos on the new procedures of the electoral law. The videos provided information on the details of the new articles in the Electoral Law 44/2017, the eligibility of voters, how to run for elections as individuals and lists, and the details of the preprinted ballot papers.

1. Introduction to the new electoral law 44/2017
2. Who is eligible to vote?
3. How to Run?
4. Official ballot papers

VIDEOS ON SOCIAL MEDIA

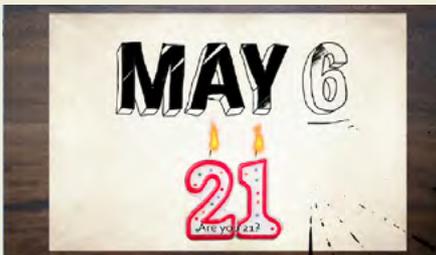


“Get out the Vote” Animated Videos



As part of the “Get out the Vote” media awareness campaign, UNDP LEAP developed three animated videos targeting youth and first-time voters. The videos demonstrated the voting process on E-Day, explained the use of the pre-printed ballot paper, and presented the main rules to follow on E-Day.

1. How to vote?
2. Pre-Printed Ballot Paper
3. Main Rules on E-Day



Youth & Elections Jingle

As part of the “Get out the Vote” campaign, UNDP LEAP produced an animated video with a jingle addressing first time voters and young people and aiming to encourage them to vote, advocate for change and democratic consolidation. You can view the [video](#)



Youth & Elections Vox Pop

UNDP LEAP produced a vox pop to reflect the opinion of the youth on their participation in elections, their aspirations and expectations and their involvement in decision-making processes. The vox pop can be viewed [here](#).



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About UNDP

UNDP is the UN's global development network, advocating for change and connecting countries to knowledge, experience and resources to help people build a better life. We are on the ground in nearly 170 countries, working with them on their own solutions to global and national development challenges. As they develop local capacity, they draw on the people of UNDP and our wide range of partners.

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