



United Nations Assistance Mission for Iraq (UNAMI)
بعثة الأمم المتحدة لمساعدة العراق (يونامي)

Iraq's Electoral Preparations and Processes - Report No. 10
Baghdad, 11 August 2021

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Highlights for July

- IHEC approved the final list of candidates eligible to contest the 10 October 2021 CoR elections.
- A ballot lottery was conducted for all 83 constituencies and for the component seats to determine the order of candidates as they will appear in the ballot paper.
- IHEC announced the official campaign period; monitoring committees were established to follow up on any reports of electoral campaign violations.
- Ballot papers are currently being printed at secure locations by the German printing company; IHEC technical committee is overseeing the process with UN support.
- The first of three planned polling day simulations took place on 12 July.
- IHEC approved the concept for the establishment of Results Display Centers (RDCs) in IHEC GEOs and in Baghdad.
- More than 740,000 online applications were received for 350,000 polling staff positions.

Finalization of Candidate Lists

On 8 July, the Independent High Electoral Commission (IHEC) approved the final list of candidates eligible to contest the 10 October 2021 Council of Representatives elections. Based on IHEC records, there are a total of 3,249 candidates countrywide. Of these, 951 are female candidates accounting for 29.3% of the total. There are 67 candidates for minority seats, including 34 candidates contesting the 5 Christian seats, 8 candidates running for the Sabean Mandeian seat, 10 candidates for the Fayli-Kurd seat, 8 candidates for the Shabak seat and 7 candidates for the Yazidi seat. IHEC has published the complete list of candidates on its website, accessible at the following link: <https://ihec.iq/names-and-sequences-2021/>

Based on information provided by IHEC, there are a total of 284 candidates who have been excluded during the vetting process based on feedback from institutions and following the adjudication of various appeals by the Electoral Judicial Panel.

There were also 103 candidates who formally notified IHEC of their withdrawal during the stipulated candidacy withdrawal period, from 13-20 June. In relation to recent reports involving the withdrawal of

* This report, the tenth in a series, is prepared pursuant to UN Security Council Resolutions 2576 (2021) and 2522 (May 2020). In extending UNAMI's mandate, the Council instructs that the Special Representative of the Secretary-General and UNAMI shall: "further advise, assist and support the Government of Iraq and the Independent High Electoral Commission with efforts to plan and execute genuinely free and fair Iraqi-led, Iraqi-owned elections and referenda, including through regular technical reviews and detailed reporting on electoral preparations and processes, as part of the Secretary-General's regular reporting cycle".



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at least 4 political formations, IHEC issued a definitive clarification that the period for the withdrawal of candidates has already lapsed and that all candidates in the final and approved list will appear in the ballots, which are already being printed.

Ballot Lottery

On 7 July, IHEC conducted the ballot lottery to determine the order of candidates as they will appear in the ballot papers. The lottery took place in the 19 IHEC Governorate Electoral Offices (GEOs) for all the 83 electoral constituencies and in the IHEC national office for the component seats. The process was conducted in a smooth and well-organized manner, broadcasted on live TV countrywide, and was well attended by the candidates, representatives of political parties and alliances, media and other electoral stakeholders. Being the first such countrywide activity conducted by the IHEC under the present Board of Commissioners, the activity was deemed a positive indication of IHEC's organizational capability to hold such a large-scale event. UNAMI provided support in developing the concept and procedures for the lottery and in procuring the lottery machines. UNAMI electoral staff were also present during the training of staff and the actual conduct of the lottery itself in Baghdad and in certain field locations, providing support to their IHEC counterparts.

Electoral Campaign Period

Pursuant to the provisions of the electoral law and following the approval of the final list of candidates, IHEC announced that the official electoral campaign period began on 8 July and will proceed until 24 hours before the start of polling or by six o'clock in the morning of 7 October (as the special voting will start on 8 October).

IHEC has established monitoring committees composed of its officials at the central and governorate levels to report and follow up on violations of electoral campaign rules. All reports from local committees are collated and submitted to the central level in Baghdad for onward submission and consideration by the IHEC Board of Commissioners. Based on the provisions of the electoral law, penalties will be imposed against those found committing electoral offenses and/or violating electoral campaign rules.

Printing of Ballot Papers

IHEC finalized the design of the ballot papers, and the printing began as scheduled on 20 July. The printing process is taking place at the facilities of the IHEC-contracted German security printing company. IHEC Technical Committees are on site and are overseeing the ballot printing process, with two UN advisers on graphic design and logistics providing advisory support to the committees. Based



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on the reports of the committees, the printing is on schedule, with 19 percent of the ballot papers already printed as of 30 July.

Polling Day Simulations

On 12 July, IHEC conducted the first of three planned polling day simulations. The simulation mirrors the actual polling day process and uses all electoral devices including the voter verification device (VVD), polling count optical scanners (PCOS) and results transmission systems (RTS). During the first simulation, a total of 1,079 mock polling stations were set up to test the processes and systems. Afterwards, IHEC organized a learning exercise to identify and address any glitches and flaws in the process to prevent similar mistakes on election day. Larger scale second and third simulation processes - that will also be open to the media, observers, party agents and the general public - are scheduled during the months of August and September.

Audit of the Results Management IT System

The independent audit firm contracted by IHEC, Hensoldt, continues to review the set up for the polling, counting and results management IT systems. It has so far produced two detailed reports and will continue to assess the entire process as part of the ongoing simulations being carried out by IHEC. Hensoldt will provide its next report based on the findings during the three simulation exercises. The IHEC technical committee overseeing the audit process, together with UNAMI electoral IT specialists, is regularly meeting with the audit company to discuss audit findings and the implementation of audit recommendations by the IT supplier, the Korean company Miru.

Results Display Centers

On 13 July, the IHEC Board of Commissioners approved the concept for the establishment of results display centers (RDCs) based on proposals provided by UNAMI's Office of Electoral Assistance (OEA). These will be set up in all the 19 governorate electoral offices (GEOs) and in Baghdad to enable the display of election results as they become available, during the transmission, tabulation and announcement of results. The RDCs will be operated by IHEC staff while access to the RDC venues will be granted to electoral stakeholders, including political parties and candidates' agents, international and domestic observers, civil society organizations and the media. UNAMI's Office of Electoral Assistance already procured and handed over the required equipment to IHEC, including 19 laptops and 2 servers.

Polling Staff Recruitment and Training



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As of 1 August, IHEC received more than 740,000 online applications for polling staff positions. This is against a requirement for around 350,000 polling staff, or more than double the number. However, IHEC is still verifying whether all locations throughout the country have received adequate number of applications. Also, as per IHEC decision, those who will be assigned as coordinators or managers of polling centers will be selected among existing IHEC voter registration center staff. IHEC has also determined the emoluments that each staff will receive, with university students earning 250,000 Iraqi dinars and government staff receiving 150,000 Iraqi dinars. These are lumpsum remunerations for attending the training and serving as polling staff.

Following the completion of the cascade training on the electronic devices, IHEC has now proceeded with the cascade training on the polling and counting procedures. The first level, with two rounds of the cascade on polling and counting, started on 25 July for 126 IHEC GEO staff. These will in turn serve as trainers for the level 2 training. The last level of the training cascade involves the training of the more than 350,000 polling staff at polling centers and stations prior to election day.

Finalization of Voters List and Polling Center Planning

IHEC provided further detailed information on the number of voters and the corresponding number of polling centers and stations to be set up for election day. Based on information as of 29 July, there are 25,182,594 eligible Iraqi voters. Of these, 12,941,671 are male voters (51.4%) while 12,240,923 are female voters (48.6%).

IHEC has finalized the allocation of polling centers and stations. For regular voting, there will be 55,041 polling stations in 8,273 polling centers. For special voting, IHEC will set up 2,584 polling stations in 595 polling centers. For internally displaced persons (IDPs), 296 polling stations and 86 polling centers have been planned. IHEC is also finalizing the number of polling centers and stations to be opened in prisons as provided by law.

Public Outreach Activities

IHEC is currently implementing its outreach activities based on the finalized public outreach and awareness plan. The plan covers key thematic areas of the electoral process and targets all voters, youth and first-time voters, women, people with disabilities, minorities and socially excluded individuals, IDPs and returnees, special voting and political parties. UNAMI is providing support in developing the media and content for outreach activities, including info and motion graphics, and social media messages.

With the advice and support of UNAMI, IHEC is in the process of signing an MOU with the Communication and Media Commission (CMC) to boost the dissemination of IHEC awareness materials through TV stations, (including TV satellite channels), radio stations; systematic SMS via telecom operators; and the promotion of IHEC outreach materials through social media.



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In addition, IHEC also adapted several innovative activities including the posting of IHEC awareness messages during the Iraq Football Cup finals on 19 July. Two direct awareness activities took place in Baghdad's Karada and Al Ameriya districts to engage with people on elections and on IHEC's role. Footage of these activities will be used for future awareness campaigns.

The 31 civil society organizations (CSOs) selected for the low value grant projects are now in the process of implementing their activities. Initially 32 CSOs were approved, but one was later disqualified due to a conflict of interest, as the CSO head was found to be a candidate in the election. The CSOs are implementing awareness-raising activities based on the briefing and materials received from IHEC and are also using autonomously produced outreach materials.

Production of Election Kits and Printing of Voter Lists

The IHEC-contracted company is producing election kits for polling centers and polling stations at its facility in China. A technical committee composed of IHEC staff is deployed at the location to oversee the process. Based on latest reports, the production is on schedule with almost 50% of items manufactured.

Similarly, the printing of the voter list by the Iraqi Media Network in Baghdad is also on schedule. The latest report indicates that 55% of all required materials have already been printed.

Election Security

The Supreme Security Committee for Elections continued to hold its periodic meetings. In its most recent meeting on 28 July, the committee discussed preparations for deploying Iraqi security forces to secure polling locations. Based on the outcome of field visits, the committee is also paying attention to securing IHEC warehouses which will store sensitive election materials. These include the provision of reserve security teams to secure warehouses and to initiate fire mitigation measures, including standby fire trucks and the removal of unnecessary but highly combustible items.

Note: UNAMI reminds all stakeholders that electoral preparations must remain free from political interference at all stages. This independence is essential to build public trust in the elections and their outcome.