

Check list of consideration and challenges for a good project design

Considerations for Good Project Design

- Involve the right people in the process. Call on electoral expertise in project formulation from UNDP Regional Centres, Headquarters, electoral project staff elsewhere in the world; from established EMBs with the capacity to second staff or train other EMBs; and from DPA/EAD and from private consultants. Yet while doing so, maintain Country Office ownership by identifying a backstopping Assistant Resident Representative or programme officer who is fully involved in project design and follow up.
- Get input from all relevant stakeholders.
- Before adding the narrative and other sections, ensure that the results and resources required are accurate and agreed upon by the partners.
- Develop indicators that are SMART (specific, measurable, attainable, relevant and trackable).
- Where more than two UN agencies are involved in providing electoral support, consider developing a UN joint programme document, consistent with the broader UN reform and aid effectiveness agenda. Guidelines on joint programming, including joint programme document templates, are accessible at the United Nations Development Group (UNDG) Web site at www.undg.org.

Challenges to Good Project Design

- Engaging the right people
- Correctly assessing internal or external conditions
- Correctly identifying effective needs
- Establishing the right priorities
- Making comparative analysis of possible project implementation methods
- Developing a realistic budget
- Assessing the time needed
- Understanding the state of donor funding
- Facilitating on-time procurement and recruitment of personnel
- Avoiding vendor and/or donor influence

- Establishing clear definitions of role and relationships, particularly in the management of funds and decision-taking structures