

Key points of a successful procurement strategy

A successful procurement strategy should have the following main objectives:

1. Delivery of all goods and services of the required quality and standards in compliance with the established deadlines for voter registration, voting operations or any electoral process without delay or shortfall.
2. UNDP project management unit/procurement officers should have a clear understanding of and familiarization with the materials required and technical specifications.
3. Clear, prior specification (qualitative and quantitative details), where political and legally possible, of the desired materials. This is necessary to ensure confidence among stakeholders that the procured materials are appropriate¹.
4. Cost-effectiveness through implementation of a transparent and competitive process.
5. Sustainability.
6. Avoidance of unrealistic expectations that cannot be met in subsequent elections.

Under UNDP financial rules, the Chief Procurement Officer, who is the head of the Bureau of Management, has delegated limited authority to the Resident Representative to award contracts valued less than US\$100,000. These contracts must, however, be approved by the local contracts committee.

¹ There is a risk that when an election is internationalized, for example by the involvement of UNDP or other donors in supporting it, EMBs may feel driven either by pressure from political stakeholders, or through a fear that resources may only be available on this one occasion, to opt for high-tech equipment or processes of doubtful appropriateness and sustainability. Careful attention should be paid to the pros and cons of supporting systems that make sense in that context.