Two election officials working for the Joint Election Management Body (JEMB) returned safely to the Badakshan capital, Feyzabad September 24 after having completed a 18 day round trip trek by jeep, horse and walking to deliver election materials to polling stations in Pamir Khord, a remote area of Wakhan in Badakshan province.

As part of the preparations for this year's landmark Wolesi Jirga and Provincial Council elections the JEMB opened four polling stations in the remote and rugged terrain of Pamir Khord enabling over 700 people from the small Kyrgyz community to participate in the country wide elections.

The two officials, Mr Juma Gil and Mr Edi Muhamad left Feyzabad on September 8, traveled by Russian jeep for two days before switching to horse for four days and finally reaching Pamir Khord after a three day marathon walk reaching altitudes of over 3900 metres.

Without any hotels along the route the two officials stayed with local Kyrgyz families en-route before arriving in Pamir Khord to set up polling stations for the September 18 elections.

Bissmillah Bissmil, Chairman of the Joint Electoral Management Body said: “We opened over 26,000 polling stations for this year’s Wolesi Jirga and Provincial Council elections to provide all of Afghanistan’s people the opportunity to vote.

“We commend the dedication and commitment of all our staff in providing communities across Afghanistan the opportunity to ensure their voice is heard in deciding the future of our country.”

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