



A Global Survey on the Cost of Registration and Elections & Electoral Budgeting

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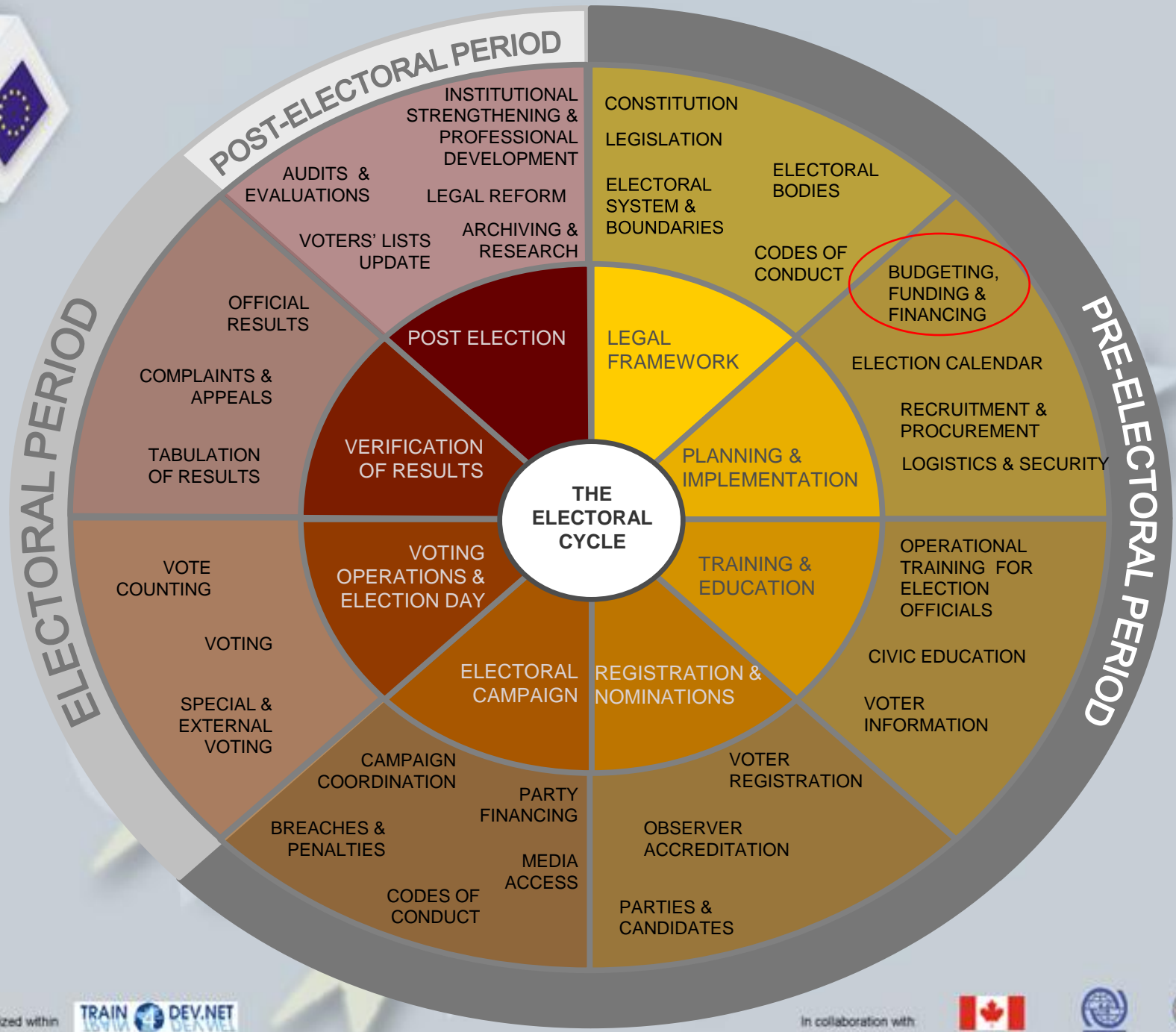
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OBJECTIVES

- ☐ To understand the costs related to voter registration, the electoral event and the electoral cycle
- ☐ To appreciate the different types of costs to consider for an electoral budget
- ☐ To introduce you to a methodology for electoral cost assessments
- ☐ To facilitate you in establishing or reviewing electoral budgets





Getting to the CORE

- ❑ First global research project exclusively devoted to the EMB budget and cost
- ❑ A step-by-step guide to election processes around the world that explains what measures need to be in place, from voter registration to ballot-box security, and at what price, before the first ballot is cast



Case Study Matrix

State/Size of Democracy

Country

Stable Democracies

Large- & medium-sized electorate:

Australia, India, Spain

Small-sized electorate:

Sweden

Transitional Democracies

Large- & medium-sized electorate:

Mexico

Small-sized electorate:

Guatemala

Conflict Environments

Large- & medium-sized electorate:

Afghanistan, Iraq

Small-sized electorate:

Cambodia, Haiti



CORE Project has four major features:

1. Establishes working definitions of election costs and identifies cost variables such as voter registration, boundary delimitation, public financing for political parties
2. Identifies the revenue sources for funding the administration of election processes
3. Evaluates election budgets of EMBs in order to identify budgeting practices and techniques that influence cost control and transparency
4. Examines cost management practices, such as procurement arrangements for equipment, services and supplies.



Main expenses related to Elections

- ☐ Voter Registration
- ☐ Boundary Delimitation
- ☐ Voting Operation
- ☐ Counting and Transmission of Results
- ☐ Dispute Adjudication
- ☐ Voter Education and Information
- ☐ Campaign activities
- ☐ Observation by Party Reps/domestic or int. observers



Working Definitions...

The Costs take several forms;

- ☐ Direct procurement cost
- ☐ Diffuse cost
- ☐ Integrity cost (public trust)
- ☐ Core cost



Methodology for Electoral Cost Assessment

- ☐ Define the political environment
- ☐ Evaluate if an election year's electoral budget is covering one/several elections; held simultaneously or separately
- ☐ Separate ordinary functioning fixed costs from variable costs and distinguish betw. personnel and operational costs
- ☐ Identify list of election-related activities, e.g. VR, VE, boundary delimitation, the polling operation, dispute adjudication, campaigning by PPs and candidates
- ☐ Separate core costs and integrity costs in relation to each of the activities



Methodology for Electoral Cost Assessment - *continued*

- ❑ Consider separately the direct and diffuse costs incurred by different organizations involved in electoral activities as core and integrity costs.
- ❑ Quantify direct costs precisely, and estimate diffuse costs based on contextual figures/best-guesses.
- ❑ Identify the funding source for each cost category
- ❑ Make the necessary adjustments in comparing cost evolution over time for within a given country or among different countries, by including capital and equipment investments



Budget formulation: Two main approaches

Baseline budgeting

A budget proposal according to financial figures extracted from previous budgetary operations

Zero base budgeting

A budget proposal without reference to any previous exercises



Types of Budgeting...

- ☐ Project focused budget
- ☐ Electoral event (or consolidated budget)
- ☐ Electoral cycle budget



Identifying needs and costs related to e.g. VR..

- ☐ Policy decisions & planning
- ☐ Whether to have VR at all, where to get the original data from
- ☐ Ad hoc VR to permanent system
- ☐ Purchase technological systems from OMR scanners to digital reg kits, plus establish data processing centers for forms and data
- ☐ Decide on Eligibility
- ☐ Methodology: staggered registration?
- ☐ Absentee voting & IDPs, Where to allow registration
- ☐ Display Period
- ☐ Create operational plan
- ☐ Create operational timeline
- ☐ Create procedures and registration forms



Identifying needs and costs related to e.g. VR.. *continued*

- ☐ Public Outreach (Design & Produce VE material, public service announcements – radio, TV, press - Call Center, Website etc.), office space, equipment, communications and transport costs
- ☐ Accreditation. Send invitations and announcements, rent conference rooms, design, produce and distribute material, salary accreditation staff
- ☐ VR lists – receive data, process data, run duplication tests, allocate registration centers, printing of VR lists
- ☐ Rent buildings, upgrade buildings, furnish and equipment, salaries, consumables
- ☐ VR training –ToT rent, material, transportation etc.
- ☐ Warehousing & storage
- ☐ Display period – printing of new VL, distr. Display, receipt of complaints and corrections, data entry of modifications, staffing
- ☐ Building security, sec. staff, sec. equipment, security training
- ☐ Admin & Finance – office space, insurance, postage, comms. , extra salaries, extra travel



Identifying 'Polling Costs'

- Public Outreach
- Accreditation of observers and media
- Media Monitoring
- Training
- Polling Staff
- Party/Candidate Registration
- Ballot Lottery
- Production of ballot paper
- Preparation of Voter List
- Preparation of polling materials
- Polling Centre preparation
- Security (Polling Centres, District centres, offices, etc)
- Transport of Polling Materials to Polling Centres
- Set up JEOC
- Election Day (s)
- Retrieval of polling materials to GEOs
- Complaints mechanism
- Training of Counting/Tally staff
- Counting Centres
- Data Entry at Tally Centres
- Media Centre
- Retrieval of materials from DEO to HQ
- Destruction of materials
- Closure of offices/Long term storage of material
- Analysis of Candidate financial disclosure details
- Additional admin and finance costs



Identifying 'Running Costs'

Staff (salaries, allowances, bonus)

Temporary staff/labourers

Equipment

Offices (rent, maintenance, purchase, construction)

Supplies/Consumables

Utilities

Communications

IT equipment/software/website

Legal costs

Banking Costs

Sub contractor fees

Recruitment costs

Insurance and compensation

Translation

Official Hospitality

Conferences/Study Trips

Travel/Transportation Costs

Fuel for vehicles and generators

External Relations and Promotions

Training/Staff Development

Warehouse costs

Security costs

Printed Materials

Public Outreach

Pilot studies

Small grants

Work with Media

Work with Observers

Work with Political Parties

Work with Civic Education groups

Generators

Uniforms

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UNDP Procurement - VR Costing

Option 1: Low-tech voter registration kit		Option 2: OMR Forms registration kit		Option 3: Digital registration kit	
- 1 Kit Box	USD 10	- 1 kit box	USD 10	- Hardware	USD 310
- 1 digital Camera	USD 300	- 3000 Registration forms	USD 390	- Software	USD 1,185
- 68 sets of AA Batteries	USD 95	- 3000 Laminates	USD 260	- Generator + battery	USD 1,100
- 150 Packets of films	USD 1050	- 1 digital camera	USD 300	- Training	USD 575
- 1 photo cutter	USD 40	- 68 sets of AA Batteries	USD 95	- Technical Assistance	USD 845
- 1 photo background	USD 12	- 1 Photo cutters	USD 40		
- 1 tripod	USD 25	- 1 photo background	USD 12		
- 5 glue sticks	USD 3.50	- 1 tripod	USD 25		
- 1 scissors	USD 1.50	- 3000 Photo fix (glue)	USD 30		
- 6 cards and stubs books	USD 300	- Photographic Paper (1 sheet)	USD 4		
- 3000 Laminates	USD 260				
- 6 thumbprint pads	USD 20				
- 50 plastic seals	USD 3				
Total price per kit	USD 2120	Total price per kit (without OMR Scanner)	USD 1,166	Total price per kit	USD 4,015
Price per voter	USD 0.71-0.85	Price per voter	USD 0.39-0.47	Price per voter	USD 1.61-1.34
Option 1 uses a field team to complete, on behalf of a potential Voter, a paper registration application. A simple Voter's ID-card with a photo is issued to the potential Voter. The paper applications are forwarded to a central location for data entry into a database. However the photo is not available in the actual voters' list.		Option 2 uses OMR-technology. This is a semi-digital method. Forms are filled at the registration centre. An ID-card with a photo will be issued to the voter. The forms will be scanned and consolidated centrally to build the voter registry/database with photo. A software to link between the OMR scanning environment and the database application will be required. If biometric method is combined into the digital method, a fingerprint scanner (cost USD 450 each) will be required together with a validation test to check for duplications.		Option 3 is a fully digital registration method. Voter data are captured digitally on the spot at the registration centre. An ID-card with a photo will be issued to the voter. The date collected will be consolidated centrally to build the voter registry/database with photo. The central data centre will be equipped with servers and workstations. If biometric method is combined into the digital method, a fingerprint scanner (cost USD 450 each) will be required together with a validation test to check for duplications.	
Advantages: Low cost. It is a simple low-tech solution and well-tested. The risk of malfunctioning equipment is minimized.		Advantages: Data are collected and verified by the potential voter on the spot, minimises margin of errors. It is less labour intensive as oppose to the low-tech method. Once the forms are scanned, the voter registry can be validated to check for duplications (if finger prints are included). A central data centre will have to be equipped with scanners, servers, workstations and associated software. It also allows easier means for updating and adding new records, as well as keeps track of amended and deleted records. Less expensive as opposed to the fully digital method.		Advantages: Data are collected digitally and verified by the potential voter on the spot minimises margin of errors. It also allows easier means for updating and adding new records, as well as keep track of amended and deleted records. Once the data are consolidated, the voter registry can be validated to check for duplications (if finger prints are included).	
Disadvantage High degree of error since data needs to be manually type into a database. Labour intensive. Allows little possibility of checking for duplication. The photo is not available in the actual voters' list. Updating and adding new records, as well as keep track of amended and deleted records are more cumbersome.		Disadvantage Errors in filling/shading out the OMR forms and at the scanning phase and failure to integrate the OMR scanning environment with the database application.		Disadvantage: The equipment can malfunction and software can be corrupted. There could be no paper trace to revert to at a later stage. High cost.	

UNDP Procurement – Polling Costs

Product	Option 1	Option 2	Option 3
Ballot boxes	Made of solid transparent plastic. The lid is secured with security seals. Can hold a minimum of 500 ballot papers size A4 (Tanzania, Afghanistan and East Timor) Unit Price: USD 22	Made of corrugated plastic with “windows” at each of the four sides. The box is collapsible for easy transport and distribution (DRC) Unit Price USD 8:	Made of corrugated cardboard, a collapsible disposable ballot box Unit Price: USD 5
Indelible ink	plastic bottle, with brush applicator, 25 % silver nitrate solution, 60 ml, ink visible for at least 15 days (Sierra Leone) Unit Price: USD 15	plastic bottle, with brush applicator, 25 % silver nitrate solution, 80 ml, ink visible for at least 15 days (Sierra Leone) Unit Price: USD 18	dipping bottle, 5 % silver nitrate solution, 100 ml Unit Price: USD 10
Pen	Marker Pen, 25 % silver nitrate solution Unit Price: USD 2.50		
Polling booth/screen	Self-standing polling booth with shelf, made of strong corrugated cardboard, assembled height 150 cm, collapsible for shipping and storage Unit Price: USD 9	Tabletop polling screen, made of strong corrugated cardboard, assembled size 68x30x71 cm Unit Price: USD 3	
Polling day kit	Actual content varies by requirement. Usually packed in a solid sealable plastic kit for easy distribution consisting of: SIGNAGE BADGE HOLDERS ROPE PENS PENCILS PENCIL SHARPENER ERASER BROWN PACKING TAPE CELLOTAPE THUMB PRINT PAD GARBAGE BAG TEMPER EVIDENT ENVELOPES GLUE BATTERIES CALCULATOR MARKER PENS SCISSORS ABSORBENT CLOTH PHOTO BACKGROUND CLOTH Unit Price: USD 46		



Comparative Data

Cost of Registration & Elections

Stable Democracies: 1-3 \$

Chile	1,2 \$
Costa Rica	1,8 \$
Brazil	2.3 \$
Botswana	2,7 \$
India	1,0 \$

Transitional Democracies: 3-8\$

Mexico	5,9 \$
El Salvador	4.1 \$
Paraguay	3,7 \$
Lesotho	6,9 \$
Uganda	3,7 \$

Post Conflict Elections in Peace Keeping Environment 8-45 \$

Angola	1992	22.0 \$
Cambodia	1993	45,5 \$
Mozambique	1994	10.2 \$
Afghanistan	2004	20,0 \$
Haiti	2005	11,0 \$



Challenges to Electoral Budgeting

- ☐ Assess financial needs against specific outputs / activities
- ☐ Work on accurate assumptions
- ☐ Visualize scenarios
- ☐ Raise funds when there is no election on the agenda
- ☐ Address long-term 'Capacity Building' with recipient institutions
- ☐ Government financial commitments
- ☐ Donor fatigue
- ☐ Expenditure conditions/timelines
- ☐ The fluid nature of election budgets - immensely important to include a contingency line



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