EC-UNDP Workshop on

Formulating and Implementing Electoral Assistance Projects in the Context of the EC-UNDP Partnership

Introduction of the Workshop & Key Concepts

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Brussels 1 – 4 February 2011
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<th>Learning Objectives</th>
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<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Become familiar with the EU/EC and UN/UNDP policy framework, strategies and activities in the field of EA</td>
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<td>2</td>
<td>Looking into the way EC and UNDP work together at HQ and in the field</td>
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<td>3</td>
<td>Discover best practices and lessons learned from up-to-date and hands-on cases from the electoral assistance world</td>
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<td>4</td>
<td>Identify key challenges and opportunities in the implementation of EA projects within the framework of the EC-UNDP Partnership on Electoral Assistance</td>
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<td>5</td>
<td>Tackle challenges during implementation: planning, budgeting, operational planning, reporting, visibility…</td>
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<td>6</td>
<td>Dealing with cross-cutting issues: new technologies, gender mainstreaming, conflict prevention &amp; mitigation</td>
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This is where we chose to put the focus this time around, based on wide demand.

While the main concepts will be revisited, this training will build on knowledge most of the participants already have developed, and seek to go further.

The attempt here is to:
- Share all the knowledge available in this room
- Exchange views and best practices
- Increase our mutual understanding and work effectiveness

Identifying the challenges, tackling them and working them out is one concrete way of making Electoral Assistance efforts more Effective.
Training Methodology

- Presentations...
- … group work...
- … discussions...
- … case studies...
- … Hard Talk!
- … exchanging experiences...
Joint EC-UNDP Task Force on Electoral Assistance
International Institute for Democracy and Electoral Assistance

eLearning Portal

Available Courses

Course on Effective Electoral Assistance
In line with the Millennium Development Goals, the overarching objectives of this eLearning course are to share experiences and to introduce, read more...

Upcoming Courses

Electoral Procurement and the Use of ICT in Electoral Processes
This eLearning course puts electoral procurement and the use...
The training is built on FIVE main resources:
Additional Resources

- Handbook for EU Election Observation (2nd edition)
- A Handbook on Working With Political Parties (UNDP)
- Getting to the CORE: A Global Survey on the Cost of Registration and Elections
- The Work of Domestic Election Observer Groups Around the World
- Compendium of International Standards for Elections
- Designing for Equality (IDEA)
- Effective Electoral Assistance: Moving from Event-based Support to Process Support Conference report and conclusions

- BRIDGE
- ACE
- PALOP
- … other
Key Concepts

Why Electoral Assistance

Effective Electoral Assistance

Electoral Cycle Approach

OECD Conference on EA 2010

Sudan 2011

Haiti 2010
Only a few states in the world do not conduct elections.

In more countries than ever before there is a demand to strengthening democratic governance.

Electoral support is receiving increasing attention within democratic governance.

A sharp increase worldwide in the number of elections of a pluralistic nature.

Only a few states in the world do not conduct elections.

Elections: a Fundamental Element of Democratic Governance
Elections: a Fundamental Element of Democratic Governance

- An inadequate electoral framework
- Restrictions in political freedoms and participation
- Electoral violence and political intimidation
- Inadequate or untimely funding of elections
- Partisan administration of the electoral process
- An unequal access to the media
- Electoral fraud and violations
- Lack of professionalism in administration of elections
- Not all elections provide people with real opportunities to choose their representatives freely

And more ...
electoral management bodies confront a new set of challenges...

- creating transparent and sustainable electoral systems and processes
- reversing situations of professional stagnation
- building the trust of the various stakeholders in the electoral process
- addressing problems of lack of retention of institutional memory
- solving political, financial and logistical constraints undermining their work and the credibility of elections
Why Electoral Assistance?

CREDIBILITY GAP

- loss of credibility and mistrust in the electoral process
- electoral disputes, electoral violence or civil strife
- voters’ apathy and low turnout
- an elected government that lacks of the required legitimacy

electoral disputes, electoral violence or civil strife
Electoral Assistance = support (legal, technical, logistic, etc.) provided to electoral laws, processes and institutions.

Effective Electoral Assistance = initiatives and activities to improve the quality and impact of electoral assistance to partner country electoral institutions and processes.

EEA is part of the wider democratic development of the partner country, in accordance with the five key principles of ownership, alignment, harmonization, managing for results and mutual accountability that inform the 2005 Paris Declaration on Aid Effectiveness.

EEA implies the management of a complex set of interactions among Government, EMBs, International Organizations, Political Parties, CSOs, Services Providers and Media…the electoral cycle approach.
Effective Electoral Assistance

Election Support VS Electoral Support

Cote d'Ivoire 2010

Afghanistan 2009
Electoral Cycle Approach

Is...

- Focused on the long term
- About developing capacities
- A way to engage with a wide variety of stakeholders
- A way to promote more exchanges, networking and south-south cooperation
Electoral Cycle Approach

Is not...

- A replacement of elections or indication that election events are unimportant
- A means to provide quick support before an election
- An excuse to provide indefinite support to electoral processes
The first Round Table on International Electoral Support was organized on 1\textsuperscript{st} March 2010 hosted by the OECD-DAC Governance Network (GOVNET)
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<td>1</td>
<td>Share experiences/understandings on the current state of implementation of best practices in electoral support</td>
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<td>2</td>
<td>Discuss and develop <strong>strategic principles</strong> on best practices for electoral support</td>
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<td>3</td>
<td>Discuss <strong>topical issues</strong> – thinking politically/realistically about elections in fragile states, holistic approaches, women participation etc.</td>
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Draft Principles

✔ Take the local context seriously through careful, comprehensive assessments.

✔ Be alert to electoral risk. Elections assistance providers must respond to the recent rise in electoral and post-electoral violence in developing countries by giving greater attention to electoral risk and long-term causes of political violence that could ignite in election processes. These concerns should be reflected in the design and implementation of elections assistance interventions.

✔ Don't misuse electoral aid and promote transparency. Elections assistance should be employed based on the highest standards of impartiality and only to promote free and fair elections, not to advance other donor policy goals, such as burnishing the legitimacy of favored partner governments or building friendly relationships with governments to meet the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs).

✔ Ground electoral assistance in complementary diplomatic policies. Elections assistance should be grounded in complementary diplomatic policies that seek to nurture or reinforce the commitment on the part of partner governments to follow accepted electoral norms.
Draft Principles

✓ Recognize the role of regional organizations. Elections assistance providers should take full account of the valuable role that regional organizations can play both in election monitoring and election assistance and seek the greatest possible complementarity with such organizations.

✓ Embrace a full concept of ownership. Aid to strengthen an electoral process should be owned not only by the relevant partner government but by the broader political society in question. Elections assistance providers should embrace an interpretation of local ownership that takes account of this political imperative.

✓ Build on donor coordination. Elections assistance providers should build on the progress they have made in creating cooperative mechanisms for elections assistance by assessing the record of such mechanisms and seeking ways to broaden and deepen communication, cooperation, and coordination among all relevant aid providers, including around joint funding mechanisms.

✓ Be as comprehensive as possible. Designing elections assistance to be comprehensive horizontally across the many domestic institutions and sectors that are involved in an electoral process will ensure better synergies and overall coherence. Elections assistance and observation should be well coordinated, as observation plays a key role in effective electoral support.
Think and act across the electoral cycle. Elections assistance should be designed, planned, and implemented in a long-term fashion across the full length of electoral cycle and if possible across multiple cycles, avoiding the common tendency to focus primarily on activities relating to elections day. Donor support should encourage sustainability to ensure that local capacity is built as quickly as reasonably possible.

Push for integration. Elections assistance should be actively integrated into the wider domain of democracy support, especially assistance for political party development, legislative strengthening, media assistance, and civic education programs.

Emphasize citizens’ understanding and engagement. Efforts to help citizens understand the utility and significance of elections as one part of a broader set of accountability mechanisms should be an integral element of elections assistance. Experience show that it is important to support consultative approaches to help election stakeholders to be jointly responsible and to build their confidence, and that of the wider public, in election management bodies and other institutions involved.
✓ Add the local to the national. Aid providers should complement their traditional focus on national elections with greater attention to strengthening local elections.

✓ Make the connection with accountability. Elections assistance providers should actively connect their activities with the wider set of donor programs supporting accountable governance at all levels.

✓ Don't neglect gender. Although progress has been made to widen and deepen the role of women in politics in many developing countries, elections assistance providers should do more to incorporate a full gender dimension in elections assistance, especially concerning candidate selection and voter participation.

✓ Respond more consistently to flawed elections. Donor governments committed to advancing free and fair elections should strive toward greater normative consistency in responding to flawed elections.

✓ Keep learning about impact, and act on it. Building on the important learning efforts undertaken in recent years, elections assistance providers should carry out deep-reaching evaluations of the impact of elections assistance in varied contexts and incorporate the learning from those evaluations into assistance practice.
Self-Presentation of Participants!