UNDP Historical Background on the field of EA

Results of Periodic Lessons Learning Exercises

UNDP Activities and Regional Statistics
Q: When did the UN first get involved in elections?

A: From the late 1940s through the 1970s, the UN was involved in observation/verification of elections. Rise in technical assistance began in the early 1990s.

Why?
To distill lessons/recommendations for:
- UNDP country offices
- UNDP and UN policy bodies
- UNDP corporate policy on electoral assistance
- Broader governance programming agenda
- Institutional memory
10-Year Review Findings

Approach of UNDP
Gov / Poverty agendas
Civic / Voter education
Donor coordination
Resource mobilization

Logistical support to international observers
Lead time
Information-sharing and evaluation
UNDP needs...

To bridge the gap b/n ‘election’ and ‘electoral’ – in policy, design and implementation

Guidance on working with political parties

An implementation guide – what UNDP does, how... substance but + resources, coordination

To leverage partnerships

Challenges to Effective Electoral Assistance:

- Timing constraints
- Delays in disbursement of funds and allocations
- Financial management challenges
- National capacity challenges greater than anticipated
- Difficulties in engaging with national counterparts
- Voter registration: disputes, security and infrastructure
- Political party support
- Procurement technical specifications
“Who were the financial contributors to the UNDP election project?” Respondents listed 21 countries and the European Union (%s reflect frequency of citation)
Q: Do you feel you had sufficient training for the electoral support tasks you performed?

A: Almost half said no.
Joint EC-UNDP-IDEA Training

Capacity development of UNDP & EC staff
Partnership building
E-learning development

Actions to address survey

Audience is the non-expert practitioner
Combines findings from 10-year retrospective, Manila, recent e-survey and some evaluations, advisory missions
Some introduction to the “what”, more on the “how”
UNDP Electoral Assistance Trends

2004-2007 Exp. in Democratic Governance=US$5.3bil
Electoral Systems and Processes=18% of this (1/5)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th># of countries/regional programmes by region</th>
<th>2004</th>
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<th>2006</th>
<th>2007</th>
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<tr>
<td>Africa</td>
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<td>Arab States</td>
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<tr>
<td>Asia/Pacific</td>
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<td>8</td>
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<td>7</td>
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<tr>
<td>Europe/CIS</td>
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<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>LAC/Caribbean</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>5</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>41</td>
<td>38</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
Major Types of Assistance

Traditional areas:
- Electoral reform, administration, sustainable electoral processes
- Civic and voter education, inclusive participation
- Support to international and domestic observers
- Mobilization and coordination of resources/partnerships for electoral support

Newer areas:
- Working with political parties
- Reduction of election-related violence and electoral dispute resolution
- Media and elections
Factors Affecting Scope and Type of Assistance

- **Type of election**
  - national (presidential, parliamentary) or sub-national (local)

- **Environment in which the election takes place**
  - post-conflict, transition, third or fourth post-transition/post-independence election

- **Other prevailing conditions**
  - size of electorate, health of the national economy and national funding available for elections, aid depending vs. non-aid dependent, state of voter register and electoral institutions, physical constraints, etc.

- **Level of support of political actors for democratic processes per se**
Thank you!