ICT and Elections

THEMATIC WORKSHOP

Information Technology and Elections Management
Informed Decisions for Sustainable Outcomes

5 - 9 March 2012, Mombasa, Kenya
“Voter Registration and Methodologies in Africa: A Comparative Analysis”

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Presentation Outline

• Voter Registration in the Electoral Cycle
• EISA Publication
• Guiding Principles of Voter Registration
• Overview of Voter Registration Methodologies in Africa
• Key Research Findings
• Conclusion
EISA Publication on “Voter Registration Methodologies in Africa”

- **Objectives**
  - To promote awareness
  - To enable informed decision-making

- **8 Cases studies:**
  - Democratic Republic of Congo, Ghana, Liberia, Malawi, Mozambique, Rwanda, Senegal, South Africa
Guiding Principles of Voter Registration

- LEGALITY
- INTEGRITY
- COMPREHENSIVENESS
- INCLUSIVENESS
- FAIRNESS
- ACCURACY
- ACCESSIBILITY
- TRANSPARENCY
- TIMELINESS
- COST-EFFECTIVENESS
- CREDIBILITY
- SUSTAINABILITY
Classification of Voter Registration
Methodologies

• Voter registration systems may be classified based on a number of criteria:
  a) Compulsory versus Voluntary Registration
  b) Active versus Passive Registration
  c) Continuous versus Periodic registration
  d) Civil Registration versus Voter Registration
CONTINUOUS or PERIODIC?
VR Methodologies

The

1. Paper-based (“manual”)
VR Methodologies (II)

(Semi-computerised)
Medium Tech (cont’d)
VR Methodologies

3. High tech (computerised systems)
3. High-tech systems (cont’d)
Key findings!

- Confidence in the EMB by election stakeholders is CRUCIAL!
- The use of high tech VR systems or methodologies does not necessarily guarantee credibility of the process
- Even best designed systems can fail if not well managed
- Institutional sustainability is crucial for sustainable VRM.
- VRM sustainability also depends on costs, storage/maintenance of equipment, human resource etc...
- Once a high-tech VRM has been adopted, it is difficult to revert to a less costly one.
- Lead Time – Election Calendar!
- VRM dependent on civil registers require relevant Government’s Departments’ effectiveness.
Conclusion

- A sound voter registration process is crucial to a successful election.
- There is no one ‘size-fits all’ VRM.
- Elections, at the end of the day, are a political process.
- ‘Technically perfect’ elections, even if they were possible, will not necessarily deliver the political acceptance of election results by all stakeholders.
THANK YOU!

AHSANTENI!