



European Commission  
United Nations Development Programme  
International IDEA

# Electoral Cycle Overview

## An approach to sustainability

*Barcelona, 20-24 June 2011*

Organized within:



With the support of:



Partners:



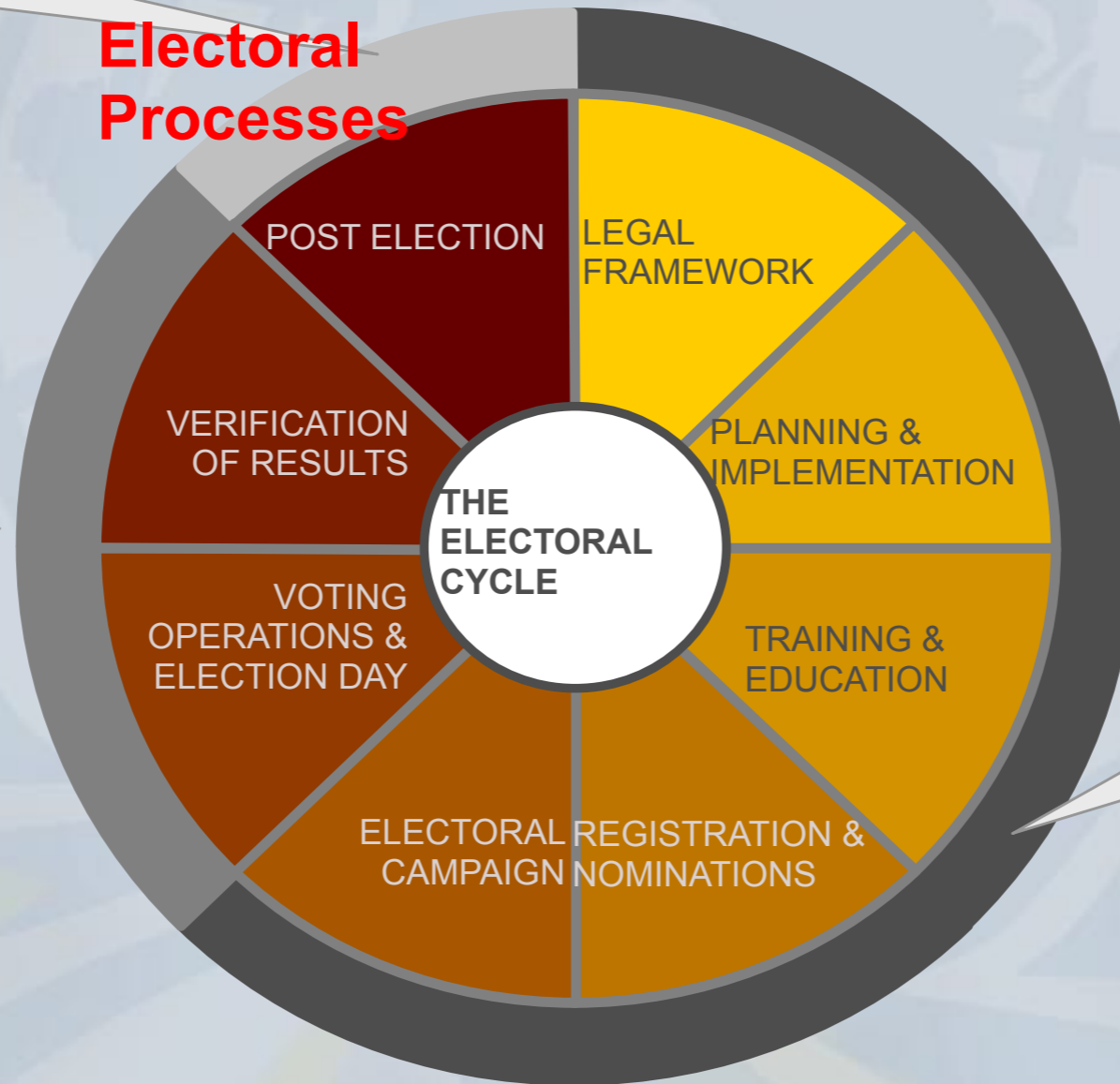


# The electoral cycle

three main segments

post-election period (strategy)

**Sustainable Electoral Processes**



Electoral Period (operations)

Pre-electoral period (preparations)

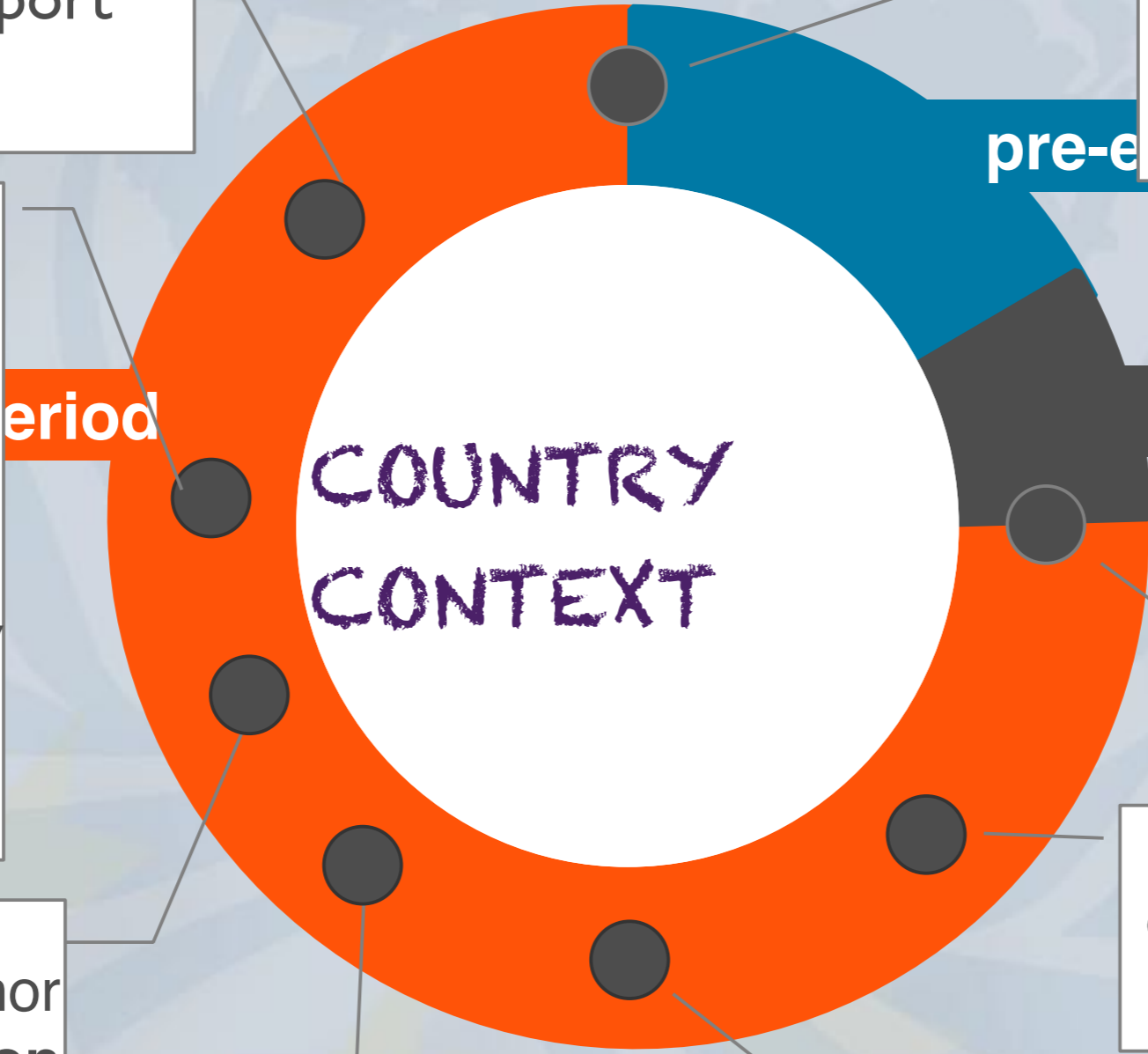


# Possibilities of the post-election period

define long-term **sustainable** support programmes

**adopt** and **apply** lessons and recommendations

structural **reforms**, institutional strengthening and long-term capacity development



donor **coordination**

evaluate **lessons learned** and recommendations

opportunity for **review**, strategic thinking, planning and action

real **beginning** of a new cycle

there is no immediate operational and political **pressure**



# *What do we mean by sustainability?*

**Sustainability refers to electoral policies and practices which are:**

**1. cost-effective and realistic; and**

**2. meet the needs of stakeholders both now and in the future**

**Sustainability aims to reduce reliance on external inputs and resources, increasing local ownership**





# what actions between elections?

**learning from evaluation,  
observer recommendations**

**needs assessment,  
technical evaluation  
and audits**

**development partner  
coordination**

**institution strengthening  
& capacity development  
programmes**

**updating voters' register  
archiving materials,  
documenting processes**

**upgrade or re-  
use  
technology**

**dialogue and  
stakeholder  
consultation**

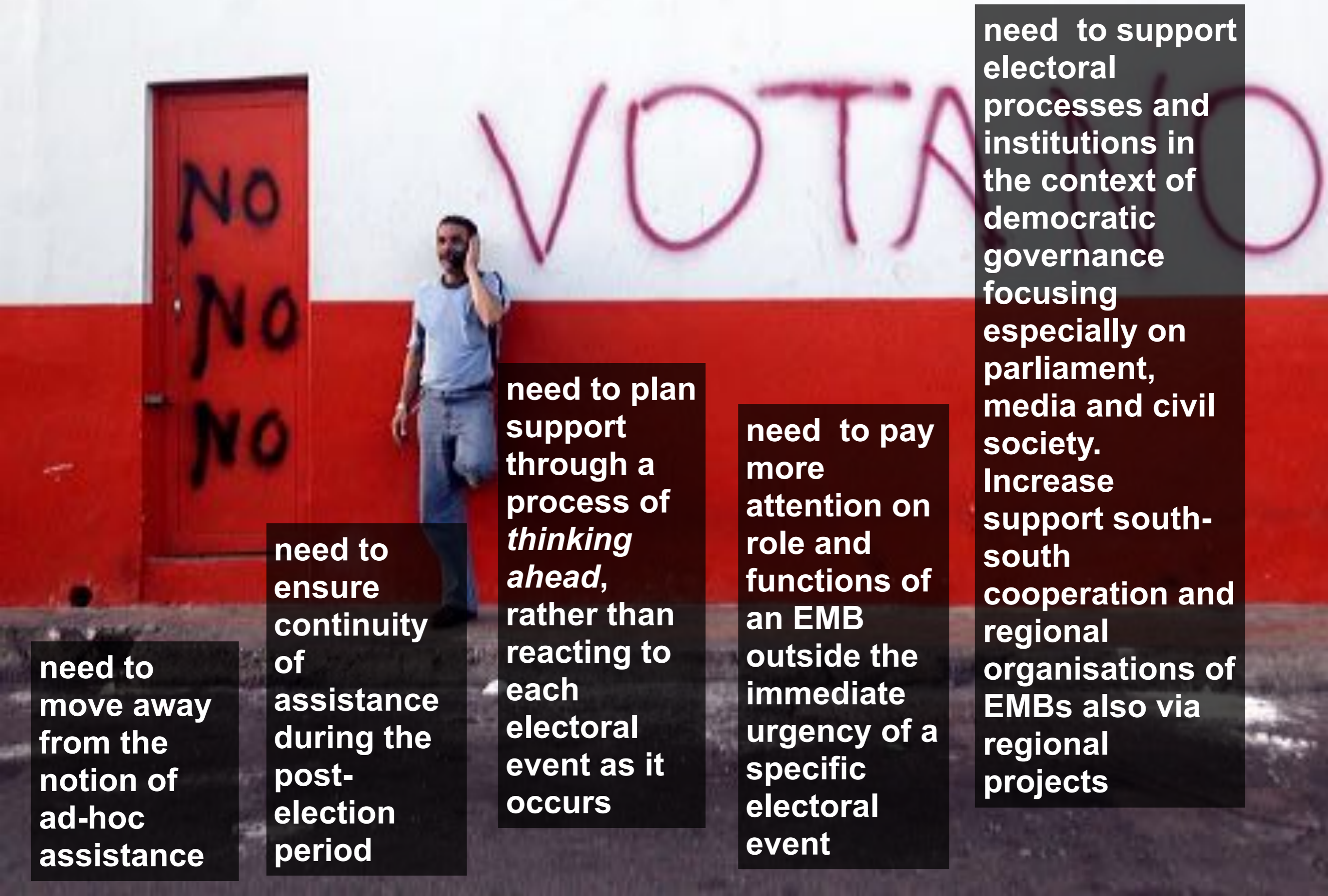
**parliamentary support,  
legal reform**

**civic  
education  
programmes**

**peer review**

**regional networks, peer support,  
exchange programs**

the post-election period offers the **opportunity** to provide sustainable support that lasts throughout the electoral cycle **an easy choice**



**need to ensure continuity of assistance during the post-election period**

**need to move away from the notion of ad-hoc assistance**

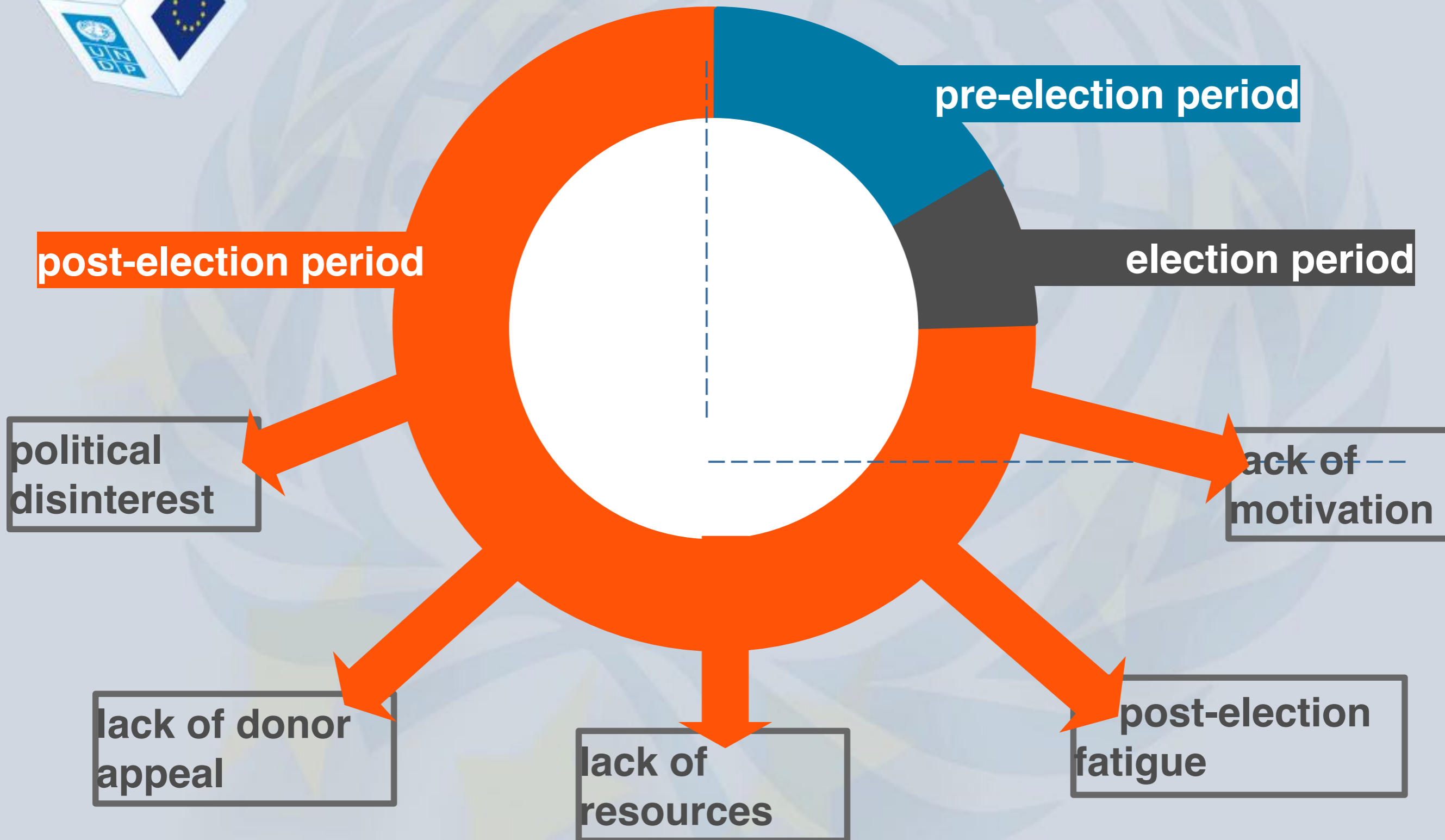
**need to plan support through a process of *thinking ahead*, rather than reacting to each electoral event as it occurs**

**need to pay more attention on role and functions of an EMB outside the immediate urgency of a specific electoral event**

**need to support electoral processes and institutions in the context of democratic governance focusing especially on parliament, media and civil society. Increase support south-south cooperation and regional organisations of EMBs also via regional projects**

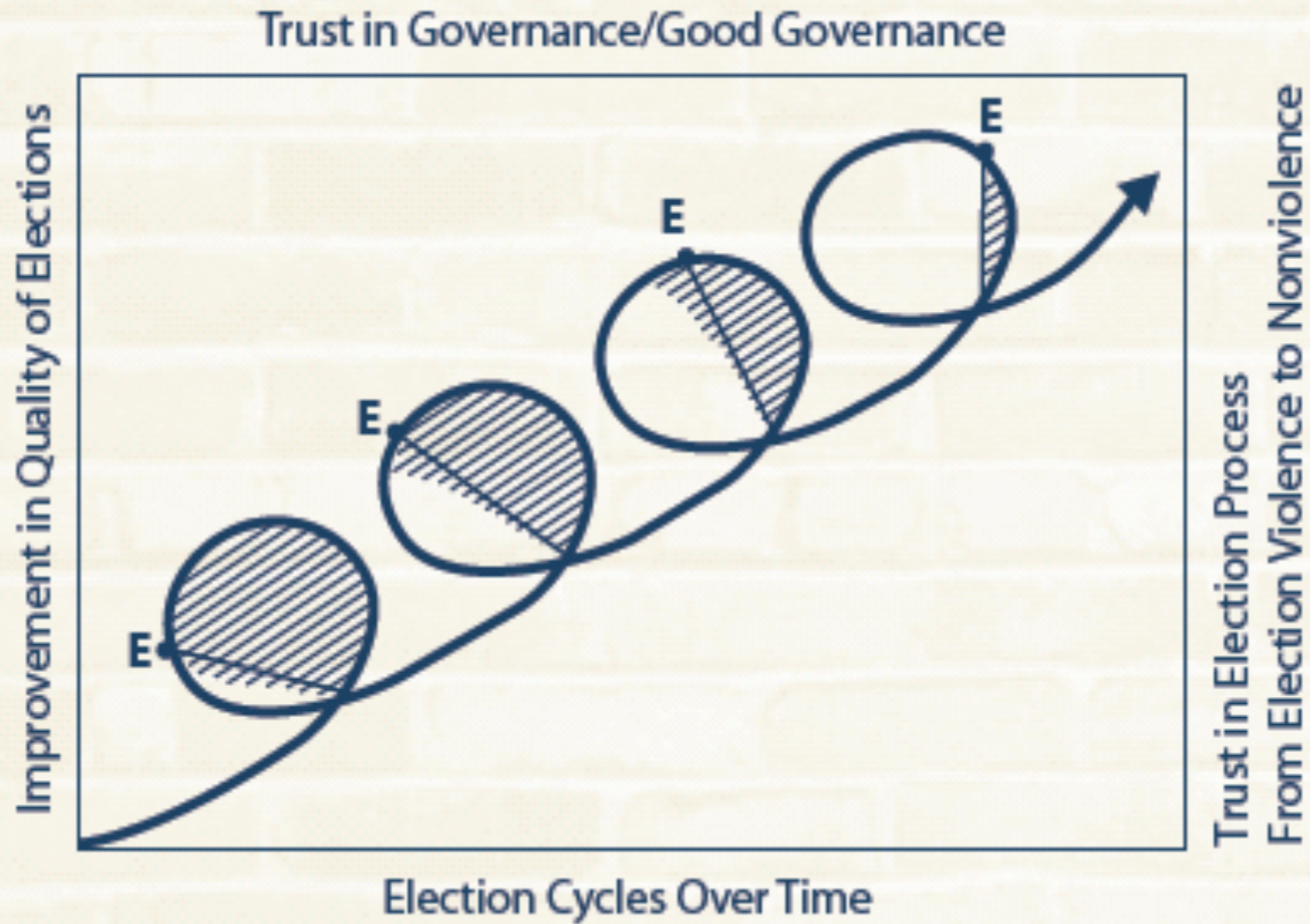


# Challenge of Inhibitors



**BOX 7**

**ILLUSTRATION: CONFLICT PREVENTION OVER SUCCESSIVE ELECTORAL CYCLES**



- **E** Election Date
-  Crisis Management
-  Proactive Elections Programming





Bangladesh

Facilitators: Jeff Fischer, Najia Hashemee and Simon Finley

Presentation and discussion on security management of the xXx elections.

Tunisia

Facilitators: Dominika Sikorska and Vincent Da Cruz (*French speaking*)

Group work examining the 2011 Tunisian elections including risk analysis and identifying aspects of electoral preparations that require further attention.

Afghanistan

Facilitators: Harald Jepsen and Richard Atwood

With Abdullah Ahmadzai and Carlos Valenzuela. Discussion on the 2009-10 electoral cycle.