Joint Training on Effective Electoral Assistance

European Commission
United Nations Development Programme
International IDEA

DAY 1
Brussels, 22-26 October 2007
UN/UNDP Lessons Learned and Best Practices

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Joint Training on Effective Electoral Assistance
Day 1
Presentation Overview

- 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
Practice Meeting Results

- Electoral Cycle Approach
- Political Parties Handbook
- Implementation Guide
- Global Tools – ACE, BRIDGE

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)

Financial Contributors to the Electoral Process

- Australia: 16.1%
- Austria: 6.5%
- Belgium: 22.6%
- Canada: 29.0%
- Denmark: 74.2%
- European Union: 48.4%
- Finland: 16.1%
- France: 25.8%
- Germany: 25.8%
- Ireland: 25.8%
- Italy: 35.5%
- Japan: 6.5%
- Luxembourg: 35.5%
- The Netherlands: 54.8%
- New Zealand: 6.5%
- Norway: 6.5%
- Portugal: 35.5%
- Spain: 3.2%
- Sweden: 24.2%
- Switzerland: 39.4%
- United Kingdom: 16.1%
- United States: 48.5%
Q: Do you feel you had sufficient training for the electoral support tasks you performed?

A: Almost half said no.
Actions to address survey

Joint EC-UNDP Training

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


- 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”
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, state of voter register and electoral institutions, physical constraints, etc.

- **Level of support of political actors for democratic processes per se**
**UNDP Electoral Assistance Trends**

2004-2006 Exp. in Democratic Governance=US$3.8bil
Electoral Systems and Processes=21% of this

<table>
<thead>
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<th># of countries/regional programmes by region</th>
<th>2004</th>
<th>2005</th>
<th>2006</th>
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<td>17</td>
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<td>Arab States</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
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<td>4</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>7</td>
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<tr>
<td>Latin America/Caribbean</td>
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<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>41</strong></td>
<td><strong>38</strong></td>
<td><strong>35</strong></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
Thank you!