



Joint EC-UNDP Task Force on Electoral Assistance
International Institute for Democracy and Electoral Assistance

Thematic Workshop on Elections, Violence and Conflict Prevention



Second Edition of the Thematic Workshop on Elections, Violence and Conflict Prevention

Pre-Election Phase - Programming for Electoral Conflict Prevention
Jeff Fischer

Barcelona 20-24 Jun 2011



General Approach to Electoral Conflict Prevention Programming

- Holistic view**
- Common terminological framework and definitions**
- Limitations in the early detection**
- Identify potential partnership/joint projects**
- Develop capacity building/training modules**
- Increase on-going cooperation and information sharing**
- Identify existing policies and practice regarding election-related violence (IDEA)**



Notional Strategic Objectives

- De-Conflictive Implementation of the Electoral Legal Architecture**
- Establishing Precedents of Mediation and Peaceful Resolution among Electoral Stakeholders**
- Developing EMB Electoral Security Administration Capacity**
- Police Rules of Engagement Inhibiting and Managing Conflict**



Programming by Stakeholder

State Stakeholders

- Regulatory
- Security
- Judicial



-
-
-
-

Non-State Stakeholders

- Political Parties
- Civil Society Organizations
- Media Organizations
- Traditional Leaders



Regulatory Stakeholders

EMB Electoral Security Administration

- Election Security Department

EMB Electoral Security Leadership

Organizational Issues

- Electoral Security Coordination Mechanisms
- Electoral Security Decentralization

De-Conflictive Electoral Programming

Building Electoral Integrity



Regulatory and Security Stakeholders

❑ **Coordination**

- Election security administration integrates military, police, and civilian authorities
- On-going management structures for coordination, control, and communication

❑ **Decentralization**

- Nature and intensity of the threat will vary from locale to locale
- “Community” relationships with electoral contestants and other stakeholders
- Incorporated into or parallel to the election administration structure, from the headquarters to the polling station



Other Regulatory Assistance Measures

□ De-Conflictive Electoral Assistance

- Objective is to improve a process or procedure that has provoked electoral conflict in recent elections
 - Guyana (1994) – metal ballot boxes
 - Bangladesh (2008) – voter registration

□ Building Electoral Integrity

- EMB Appointment Process
- Gender Dimension
- Transparency and Accountability in EMB Decision-Making
- Professional Development
- Structural Independence and Behavioral Independence



Security Stakeholders

❑ **Police Electoral Training Programs**

- Human rights issues in relation to security forces' rules of engagement in the election
- Gender and enforcement
- Security objectives and strategy in relation to the election
- Standards of profession, impartial, neutral, and non-intimidating conduct to be upheld by security forces
- Contact mechanisms and liaison details between the EMB and security forces
- An overview of election process and methods and security forces' roles in protecting these
- Details of offences against electoral laws (ACE)



Judicial Stakeholders

□ Preparations to Adjudicate

- Constitutional Courts
 - Candidate Eligibility Disputes
 - Electoral Law Challenges
- EMB, Lower Courts
 - Electoral Violence
 - Candidate Eligibility Disputes
 - Voter Registration Disputes
 - Campaign Practice Violations
 - Media Violations



Political Parties

❑ **Political Party Councils**

- Sierra Leone (2007) – Political Parties Registration Commission, Code Monitoring Commission, District Code Monitoring Committees
- Liberia (2005) – Inter-Party Consultative Committee

❑ **Political Party Codes of Conduct**

- Ghana (2008) – Institute of Economic Affairs – Ghana Political Parties Program
- South Africa – Code is Enforced by Independent Electoral Commission

❑ **Political Party Resources**

- Mozambique (1994) – \$19 million (USD) Political Party Trust Fund



Other Non-State Stakeholders

❑ **Civil Society Organizations**

- Monitoring Electoral Violence
 - Center for Monitoring Electoral Violence (Sri Lanka)
 - Mision Observacion Electoral (Colombia)

❑ **Media Organizations**

- Journalist Codes of Conduct on Reporting
- Journalist Training
- Dis-and Mis-Information Control and Correction

❑ **Traditional Leaders**

- Traditional Leaders Forums
- Training in electoral mediation and conflict prevention
 - Zimbabwe Election Support Network – Zimbabwe Peace Project



Pre-Election Phase - Programming for Electoral Conflict Prevention

Thank you...

Questions?