



European Commission United Nations Development Programme International IDEA

In collaboration with

Spanish Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation
International Organization for Migration
Canadian International Development Agency
Organization of American States

Planning for inclusive elections: OCV and IDPs

*Barcelona, 22-26 March,
2010*

Organized within:



With the support of:



Bureau
for Crisis Prevention
and Recovery



Partners:



Ajuntament de Barcelona

Barcelona International Peace Resource Center



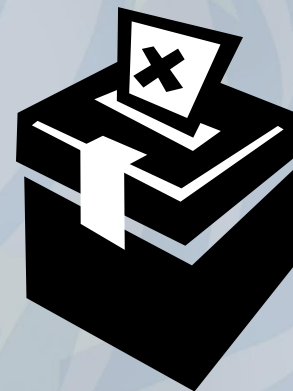
Presentation Plan

- ❑ IOM's engagement in Electoral Support: the Election Support Unit
- ❑ IOM's experience in elections
- ❑ Out-of-Country Voting: experiences and challenges





Why is IOM involved in Electoral Support?





Because...

IOM believes that the promotion of fair elections and democratic institutions can play an important role in enhancing migration management, encouraging popular participation and engagement in a country's political future and social and economic development, stabilizing communities and reducing the potential for future large-scale population displacement and consequent instability.

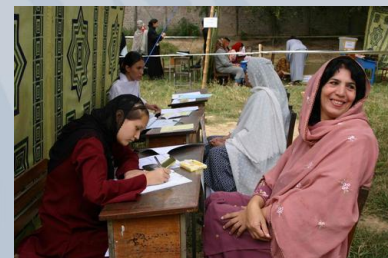




Election Support Unit

Planning, coordination and oversight of election processes dealt by IOM.

Support to Governments to expand the access to democratic electoral process.





ELECTORAL SUPPORT

How did it begin?



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Support to Electoral Process: How?

Out of Country Voting

Enfranchisement of Displaced Population

Capacity Building and Technical Support

Capacity Development for EU and Domestic Election Observers (NEEDS w/ International IDEA)

Support to European Observation Missions





Out-of Country Voting

Providing access to voting to the Diaspora

Contributing to the peacebuilding process

Empowerment through inclusion of migrant communities, into democratic processes in countries/territories of origin

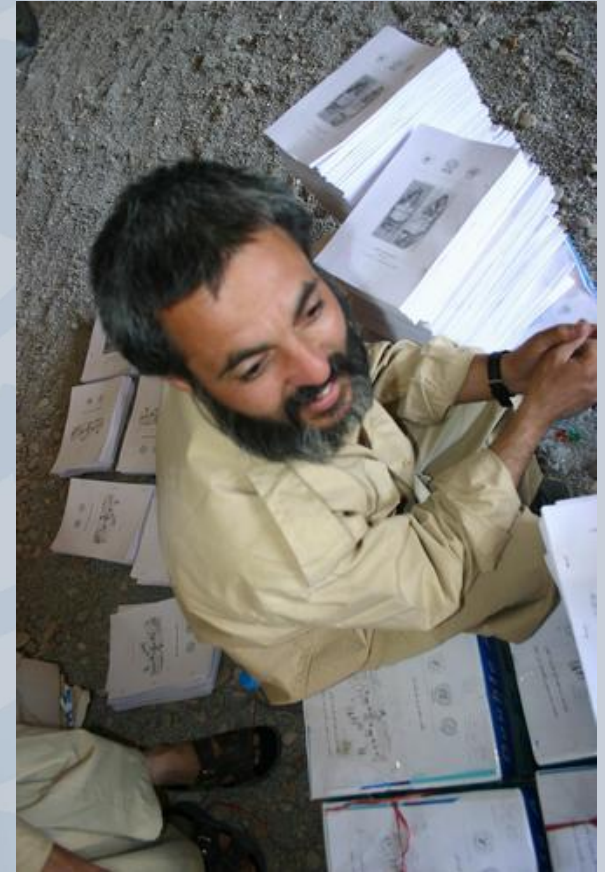
Maintain links with home communities





Capacity Development and Technical Support on OCV

- Strengthening countries' ability to conduct external voting programs and reinforcing ties with diaspora
- Support for developing and implementing action plan on OCV
- Capacity development and training for EMBs and officials working on the OCV
- Coaching, on site and online support during the implementation of the OCV





OCV Operational Considerations

- ☐ Existence of relevant legal framework for OCV/political will to implement the OCV
- ☐ Needs, technical capacities and skills of EMB and MFA
- ☐ Voter registry (type, how, when)
- ☐ Information and data on diaspora
- ☐ Operational plan for OCV implementation in line with the Electoral Cycle approach





Elements for OCV Operational Plan



- ☐ Legal Framework review
- ☐ Agreements with hosting countries
- ☐ Standardization of ICT system for polling stations abroad
- ☐ Training for electoral officials on OCV
- ☐ Voters awareness strategy
- ☐ Transmission of results and liaison with media
- ☐ Planning and implementation
- ☐ Coaching and Technical Support for implementation



Challenges

Complex Logistical Arrangements

Lack of institutional memory

Bureaucracy of host countries

High turn over of professional staff

**Tight deadlines and short timeframe
between preparedness and implementation**

Lack of adequate infrastructure





Solutions

Consolidate institutional memory

**Policy Guidance/harmonization
and coordination**

**Standardized response and best
practices**

**Advance planning for sustainability
of results**

Proactive vs. Reactive approach





Support to enfranchisement of displaced populations

Two technical cooperation projects:



- **PEP - Participatory Elections:**
(obligations, standards, and best practices)
- **PRESS - Political Rights and Enfranchisement System Strengthening:**
(developing international, regional, and national capacity to enfranchise migrants)

www.iom.int/pressproject



OCV Operations

COUNTRY/TERRITORY	YEAR	ELECTION TYPE	# PEOPLE REGISTERED	# PEOPLE VOTED	# AND OFFICES LOCATION
Bosnia and Herzegovina	1996	National and Cantonal Elections	637,990	551,881	4 main offices 17 sub offices 20 Coordination Offices 21 IOM Missions worldwide involved Votes received from 56 countries
Bosnia and Herzegovina	1997	Municipal Elections	408,607	301,161	5 Main Offices Votes received from 58 countries
Bosnia and Herzegovina	1997	National Assembly Elections in Republika Srpska	200,480	121,633	3 Main Offices Votes received from 50 countries
Bosnia and Herzegovina	1998	General Elections	314,783	193,000	3 Main Offices 2 Operational Offices Votes received from 56 countries
East Timor	1999	Popular Consultation	6220	6,004	4 Main Coordination Offices 5 Country Representatives Votes received from 5 countries 1Territory
Kosovo	2000	Municipal Elections	39,386	22,442	6 Main Offices 5 Voter Information Offices in IOM missions Votes Received from 35 countries
Kosovo	2001	Assembly Elections	145,142	80, 653	6 Main Offices 1 Liaison Office 5 Voter Information Offices in IOM missions Votes received from 36 Countries
Afghanistan	2004	Presidential Elections	846,776	737,776	4 Main Regional Offices 8 Field Offices in Pakistan 7 Field Offices in Iran
Iraq	2005	Transitional National Assembly Elections	279,785	265,148	14 Country Offices worldwide Operations in 36 Cities Votes received from 14 countries
Ecuador (Observation Mission)	2007	National Constituent Assembly Elections	152,180	39,698	9 Observer missions to Ecuador Consulates Votes received from 5 countries

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CASE STUDIES

- ☐ **Balkans**
- ☐ **East Timor**
- ☐ **Afghanistan**

- ☐ **Moldova**