Civic and Voter Education

- Why are they important?
- Who should provide civic and voter education?
- When in the electoral cycle?
- What are the major challenges?
- How can we support these activities?
Civic and Voter Education

- Links voting to broader democratization issues
- Political understanding & conflict prevention
- Increases participation by removing apathy
- Citizens aware of the meaning of elections
- Decreases invalid ballots
- Yet, easily ignored
Civic Education

- Emphasizes roles and responsibilities of citizens, governments, political & special interest groups, & mass media
- Citizen awareness and participation in all aspects of democratic society
- Conditions necessary for democratic elections
- Provides conducive environment for election, but not limited to electoral calendar
- Schools, NGOs
- Long-term strategy
Deals with concepts

- Not related to an electoral event, but electoral cycle
- Role of elections within context of democratisation & political participation
- Importance of secrecy of the vote
- Importance of each vote
- The significance of a blank ballot
- How votes translate into seats
Voter Information

Where’, ‘When’ and ‘how to Vote?

• Election-related event
• Short-term
• Based on the electoral laws
• Duty of the EMB
Challenges to Civic/Voter Education

- Poor conceptualization and planning
- Limited funds
- Timely delivery
- Inadequate coordination among implementing initiatives
- Implementing EMB/CSO may lack capacity
- Credibility and impartiality of those delivering civic and voter education
- Lack of monitoring and evaluation
### Whom to Support and How?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>EMBs</strong></th>
<th><strong>Ministry of Education</strong></th>
<th><strong>CSOs</strong></th>
<th><strong>Media</strong></th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>- Studies &amp; planning prior implementation</td>
<td>- Baseline surveys on voter attitudes, knowledge &amp; sources of information (prior/after the election)</td>
<td>- medium-long term civic/voter education</td>
<td>- Capacity development for trainers and training of trainers</td>
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<td>- Short-term voter information, but also</td>
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<td>- Face-to-face teaching/alternative methods for adults, illiterate</td>
<td>- Media Centre</td>
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<td>- Avoid duplication, but support complementary initiatives</td>
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Thank you!