

European Commission United Nations Development Programme International IDEA

Joint Training on Effective Electoral Assistance

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Civic and Voter Education

Maputo - 23-27 June 2008









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





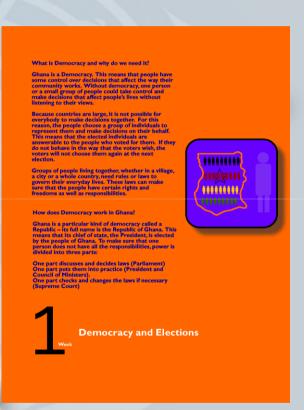






Civic Education

- 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











Voter Education: 'Why' Elections

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?

- **EMBs**
- Ministry of Education
- **CSOs**
- Media

- Studies & planning prior implementation
- Baseline surveys on voter attitudes,
- knowledge & sources of information (prior/after the election)
- Short-term voter information, but also
- medium-long term civic/voter education
- Capacity development for trainers and training of trainers
- Face-to-face teaching/alternative methods for adults, illiterate
- Media Centre
- Avoid duplication, but support complementary initiatives







