Joint Training on Effective Electoral Assistance

Miguel de Brito
EISA Country Director, Mozambique

Domestic observation in Mozambique: The experience of PVT in 2003 and 2004
Domestic Observation

• Usually:
  – Single organisations, but increasingly coalitions
  – Focus on literal observation of registration, campaign, voting and counting, and tabulation
  – Statements on quality of electoral process based on a set of principles

• Recently:
  – More technically-challenging and “invasive” observation: PVT and voters’ roll audits
Parallel Vote Tabulation (PVT)

• Aka Quick Count (NDI)
• Based on collection of official tally sheets at polling stations
• Based on a random sample of polling stations
• Size of sample determines margin of error
• Requires observation of voting and counting at polling station
• Requires a good database to process collected data
Mozambique PVT 2003

- Politically sensitive – 1999 attempt
- Conducted by Electoral Observatory
- Municipal elections - pilot experience for 2004
- 10 out of 33 municipalities covered: 3 largest municipalities and 7 politically-disputed or conflict-prone municipalities
- 3 largest municipalities: sample-based; other 7 municipalities: full PVT
- 486 observers
Mozambique PVT 2003

• Main achievements:
  – With exception of one city, all results came within the expected 2% margin of error
  – PVT results available within 48 hours
  – The official provisional result of one mayoral election was corrected by EMB on the basis of the PVT result
  – Training, deployment and communications processes were successful
  – Credibility of PVT and CS capacity established
Mozambique PVT 2004

- Expanded Electoral Observatory
- National elections: presidential and parliamentary
- Sample-based only
- 750 polling stations (out of 12,000) + 1,500 observers – 2.5% margin of error
- Logistically challenging
- Transmission of results by phone, fax or email
- Results shared with EMB and political parties but not with public before official results
Mozambique PVT 2004

• Main achievements:
  – PVT results available 48 hours after elections
  – PVT results within 0.5% of official results
  – PVT helped demonstrate instances of electoral fraud
  – PVT helped acceptance of election results by opposition – contributed to post-election stability