Joint Training on Effective Electoral Assistance

Accra, 29 June – 3 July 2009

IOM and Electoral Support

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International Organization for Migration
Overview

What is IOM?

Why is IOM involved in Electoral Support?

IOM’s experience in Elections

Why is IOM in the Global Training Platform on EEA?
What is IOM?

How did it begin?
IOM is...

an international organization, founded at a conference in Brussels on 5 December 1951 to help resolve the problems of the huge numbers of people—“surplus population”—in Europe who were displaced or unemployed and needing to move following the war.
IOM’s 16 Funding Members

- Australia
- Austria
- Belgium
- Bolivia
- Brazil
- Chile
- Federal Republic of Germany
- France
- Greece
- Italy
- Luxembourg
- The Netherlands
- Switzerland
- Turkey
- United States of America
Today IOM has...

- 125 Member States.
- 90 observers including 16 States and 74 global and regional IGOs and NGOs.
- More than 420 offices at present in more than 120 States.
- Approximately 5,600 operational staff at present, almost entirely in the field.
- More than 1,770 active projects.
- Operational budget of approx 1.1 billion.
Mission Statement

“IOM is committed to the principle that humane and orderly migration benefits migrants and society”
What does IOM do?

MIGRATION AND DEVELOPMENT
- Return of Qualified Nationals
- Exchange of Expertise
- Remittances/Money Transfers
- Overseas Communities
- Micro credit Schemes
- Targeted Assistance
- Brain Drain and Gain

FACILITATING MIGRATION
- Workers and Professionals
- Students and Trainees
- Family Reunification
- Recruitment and Placement
- Documentation
- Language Training
- Cultural Orientation
- Consular Services

REGULATING MIGRATION
- Systems for Visa, Entry & Stay
- Border Management
- Technology Applications
- Assisted Return and Reintegration
- Counter-trafficking
- Counter-smuggling
- Stranded Migrants

FORCED MIGRATION
- Asylum and Refugees
- Resettlement
- Repatriation
- Internally Displaced Persons
- Transition and Recovery
- Former Combatants
- Claims and Compensation
- Elections and Referenda

CROSS-CUTTING ACTIVITIES
- Technical Cooperation and Capacity Building
- Migrants’ Rights and International Migration Law
- Data and Research
- Policy Debate and Guidance
- Regional and International Cooperation
- Public Information and Education
- Migration Health
- Gender Dimension
- Integration and Reintegration
Why is IOM involved in Electoral Support?
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.
Planning, coordination and oversight of election processes dealt with by IOM.

Support to Governments to expand the access to democratic electoral process.
Support to Electoral Process: How?

Out of Country Voting

Technical Support to the enfranchisement of Displaced Population

Capacity Building and Technical Assistance as community stabilization tool

Support to European Observation Missions

Capacity Development for EU and Domestic Election Observers (NEEDS w/ International IDEA, Internews, EISA, Chapel)
Out-of Country Voting

Providing access to voting to migrants

Inclusion of migrants and displaced populations into democratic electoral processes in their countries/territories of origin

Migrants’ representation in the civil and political life at home (encouragement in maintaining links with their communities of origin)

Empowerment of those otherwise disenfranchised
## OCV Operations

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

• Two technical cooperation projects:

- **PEP - Participatory Elections Project:**
  Developing obligations, standards, and best practices

- **PRESS - Political Rights and Enfranchisement System Strengthening:**
  Developing international, regional, and national capacity to enfranchise migrants
Capacity Development and Technical Support

Strengthening the countries ability to conduct external voting programs and strengthen ties with their migrants through their diplomatic and consular missions abroad.

**Capacity development** mechanisms and **technical support** include:

- Voter awareness and voter education campaign (normally targeting displaced electorates).
- Upgrading and standardizing information systems.
- Training/Support of Consular Officers.
Support to EU Election Observation Missions

Support for the human rights of migrants, and democratization in third countries

Support to the EU priority to promote human rights and democratization in its relations with third countries.

• Since 2001, IOM has supported more than 35 EU Election Observation Missions (EU EOMs) worldwide.

• Often implemented complex emergency settings.

• Involve huge logistical arrangements.
Challenges of Electoral Support

Security Constraints

Lack of adequate infrastructure

Bureaucracy of host countries

Complex Logistical Arrangements

Lack of institutional memory

Tight deadlines and short timeframe between preparedness and implementation
Why is IOM in the Global Training Platform on EEA?

Inclusion of displaced population in the electoral process:

OCV Operations

Training for EMBs and practitioners on Enfranchisement of displaced populations

…JEREMY
Thank you!