European Commission
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International IDEA

In collaboration with
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Joint Workshop on Effective Electoral Assistance

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Post Electoral Period and Sustainability of Electoral Assistance

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The electoral cycle
three main segments

- Pre-electoral period (preparations)
- Electoral Period (operations)
- Post-election period (strategy)

Sustainable Electoral Processes

- THE ELECTORAL CYCLE
  - POST ELECTION
  - LEGAL FRAMEWORK
  - PLANNING & IMPLEMENTATION
  - TRAINING & EDUCATION
  - REGISTRATION & NOMINATIONS
  - ELECTORAL CAMPAIGN
  - VOTING OPERATIONS & ELECTION DAY
  - VERIFICATION OF RESULTS
Post-electoral period

Building credibility and sustainability

~ 3 years

period in-between elections

electoral calendar

pre-election period

post-election period

election period

electoral event
The Electoral Cycle

Voting Operations & Election Day
- Pre-voting & external voting
- Delivery of materials
- Media
- Party liaison
- Complaints
- Financing

Electoral Campaign
- Party registration/candidate nominations
- Observers
- Training strategy

Verification of Results
- Official results
- Complaints & appeals
- Official results

Post-election
- Audits & evaluations
- Capacity development

Operational Planning
- Operational planning
- Budgeting
- Timeline
- Recruitment
- Procurement
- Logistics
- Security

Legal Framework
- Amendment of legislation
- Electoral system/boundaries
- EMB composition

Information, Education & Training
- Civic/voter education strategy
- Training strategy

Audits & evaluations
- Audits & evaluations
- Operational planning
- Security
- Training

Organized within
- TRAID DEV.NET
- Collaboration with
  - CIDA
  - IOM
  - OAS
Some internationally assisted elections have so many resources available that they set up unsustainable processes and expectations that are difficult for a national EMB to continue/meet.

Unfortunately, this is a consequence of the event-driven support, focusing primarily on election day.
What do we mean by sustainability?

Sustainability refers to electoral policies and practices which are:

1. cost-effective and realistic; and

2. meet the needs of stakeholders both now and in the future

Sustainability aims to minimize reliance on external inputs and resources.
One of the central goals is to make international electoral assistance redundant by building locally owned capacity and by making EMBs and electoral processes and practices sustainable in the long run.
Support to electoral event

what could the consequences be if no follow-up assistance is provided during the post-election period?

PERIOD “IN BETWEEN ELECTIONS”
loss of capacity and know-how
loss of institutional memory
lack of incentives, demotivation
duplications and gaps

building of local capacity
provision of electoral support

YEAR 1 | YEAR 2 | YEAR 3 | YEAR 4 | YEAR 5

elections | elections
what actions can be taken in the period between elections?

- learning from evaluation, observer recommendations
- institution strengthening & capacity development programmes
- dialogue and stakeholder consultation
- peer review

- needs assessment, technical evaluation and audits
- updating voters’ register
- archiving materials, documenting processes
- parliamentary support, legal reform
- regional networks, peer support, exchange programs

- development partner coordination
- upgrade or re-use technology
- civic education programmes
Parliamentary elections – 2004

Parliamentary elections – 2009

Support of international community

EMB capacity

100%
Inhibitors for the post-election period

- lack of donor appeal
- lack of resources
- political disinterest
- fatigued post-election
- lack of motivation

pre-election period

post-election period
Possibilities of the post-election period

- Define long-term sustainable support programmes
- Structural reforms, institutional strengthening and long-term capacity development
- Donor coordination
- Evaluate lessons learned and recommendations
- Adopt and apply lessons and recommendations
- Real beginning of a new cycle
- There is no immediate operational and political pressure
- Opportunity for review, strategic thinking, planning and action
Institutional sustainability

Assess the EMB's management capabilities to organize and conduct elections

Ensure the legal framework is inclusive for the holding of free and fair elections

Ensure that EMB structure and processes enable it to fulfill its mandate in the longer term

Financial sustainability

Evaluate EMB's financial independence

Ensure that the EMB's enjoy sufficient funds to carry out the electoral process

Ensure that the financial requirements (donor) do not prevent the EMB of carrying out its tasks

Human resource sustainability

Assess the capacity development of EMB staff

Ensure the qualification and number of EMB's staff
The institution and the electoral processes should be able to survive political, social and monetary pressures.....
...and not be built like a house of cards
the post-election period offers the opportunity to provide sustainable support that lasts throughout the electoral cycle. An easy choice.

- Need to move away from the notion of ad-hoc assistance.
- Need to ensure continuity of assistance during the post-election period.
- Need to plan support through a process of thinking ahead, rather than reacting to each electoral event as it occurs.
- Need to pay more attention on role and functions of an EMB outside the immediate urgency of a specific electoral event.
- Need to support electoral processes and institutions in the context of democratic governance focusing especially on parliament, media and civil society. Increase, support south-south cooperation and regional organizations of EMBs also via regional projects.