



IOM International Organization for Migration
OIM Organisation Internationale pour les Migrations
OIM Organización Internacional para las Migraciones



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External Voting & Enfranchisement of Displaced Populations

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Aim



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- Introducing **core principles and basic concepts** associated with the external voting and enfranchisement of displaced electorates.
- Providing **overview of policy and operational decisions** to be taken in order to set up External Voting Operations and to enfranchise displaced electorates
- Providing **overview of main methods** of external voting operations



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Engagement



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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.



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IOM Experience



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COUNTRY/TERRITORY	YEAR	ELECTION TYPE	# PEOPLE REGISTERED	# PEOPLE VOTED	# AND OFFICES LOCATION
Bosnia and Herzegovina	1996	National and Cantonal Elections	637,990	551,881	4 main offices 17 sub offices 20 Coordination Offices 21 IOM Missions worldwide involved Votes received from 56 countries
Bosnia and Herzegovina	1997	Municipal Elections	408,607	301,161	5 Main Offices Votes received from 58 countries
Bosnia and Herzegovina	1997	National Assembly Elections in Republika Srpska	200,480	121,633	3 Main Offices Votes received from 50 countries
Bosnia and Herzegovina	1998	General Elections	314,783	193,000	3 Main Offices 2 Operational Offices Votes received from 56 countries
East Timor	1999	Popular Consultation	6220	6,004	4 Main Coordination Offices 5 Country Representatives Votes received from 5 countries 1Territory
Kosovo	2000	Municipal Elections	39,386	22,442	6 Main Offices 5 Voter Information Offices in IOM missions Votes Received from 35 countries
Kosovo	2001	Assembly Elections	145,142	80, 653	6 Main Offices 1 Liaison Office 5 Voter Information Offices in IOM missions Votes received from 36 Countries
Afghanistan	2004	Presidential Elections	737,776	846,776	4 Main Regional Offices 8 Field Offices in Pakistan 7 Field Offices in Iran
Iraq	2005	Transitional National Assembly Elections	279,785	265,148	14 Country Offices worldwide Operations in 36 Cities Votes received from 14 countries
Ecuador (Observation Mission)	2007	National Constituent Assembly Elections	152,180	39,698	9 Observer missions to Ecuador Consulates Votes received from 5 countries



Election Support Unit



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The Election Support Unit (ESU) is responsible for the planning, coordination and oversight of all election processes dealt with by IOM.

The unit provides support to Governments as part of their efforts to expand the access of migrant communities and vulnerable populations to democratic electoral process in their countries or territories of origin.



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External Voting



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- **Definition**
- **Who is entitled**
- **Access to political rights**
- **Legal Framework**
- **Guiding Principles**
- **Methods of External Voting**
- **The Process**



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External Voting



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“[...] procedures which enable some or all electors of a country who are temporarily or permanently abroad to exercise their voting rights from outside the national territory”

Voting from abroad - The international IDEA Handbook



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Who?

- Migrant Workers
- Forced Migrants
- Individuals of professional groups working abroad for their country (diplomatic staff, public officials, armed forces)
- All other citizens leaving abroad



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Enfranchisement of Displaced Population



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**Allows IDPs and
Refugees** to participate to
the democratic process in
their countries.



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Access to Political Rights



Inclusion of migrant communities, refugees and IDPs into electoral process

- Allows them to **become active participants** of and to **be represented** in the civil and political life of their home community
- Encourages them to **maintain links with their home communities**
- Enables them to **return safely** and resume productive socio-economic lives



External Voting



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Legal Framework

- Peace agreements
- Constitution
- Electoral law
- Administrative regulations



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Guiding Principles

- Fair
- Free
- Transparent
- Accountable
- Confidential
- Secret



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External Voting



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Methods

- Embassy Registration and Voting
- By Mail Registration and Voting
- In Person Registration and Voting
- Simultaneous Registration and Polling



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External Voting

The Process



- In line with the electoral process **in country**
- Design **operational plan + time-frame**
- Establish comprehensive **support system** (ITC, logistic etc)
- **Inform** all potential voters, media and observers
- Fair and sufficiently publicized **system for complaints**



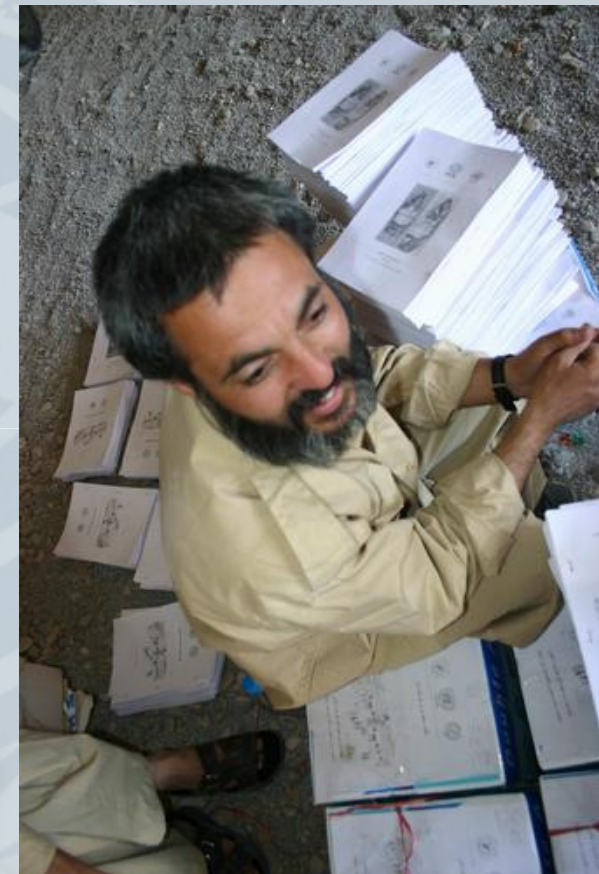
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The Process

- Pre-election assessment
- Agreement
- Office Structure
- Time-frame
- Evaluation



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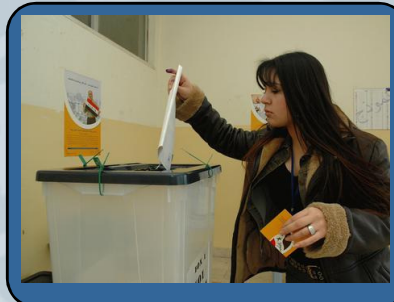
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Questions?



Thank You!



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Workshop



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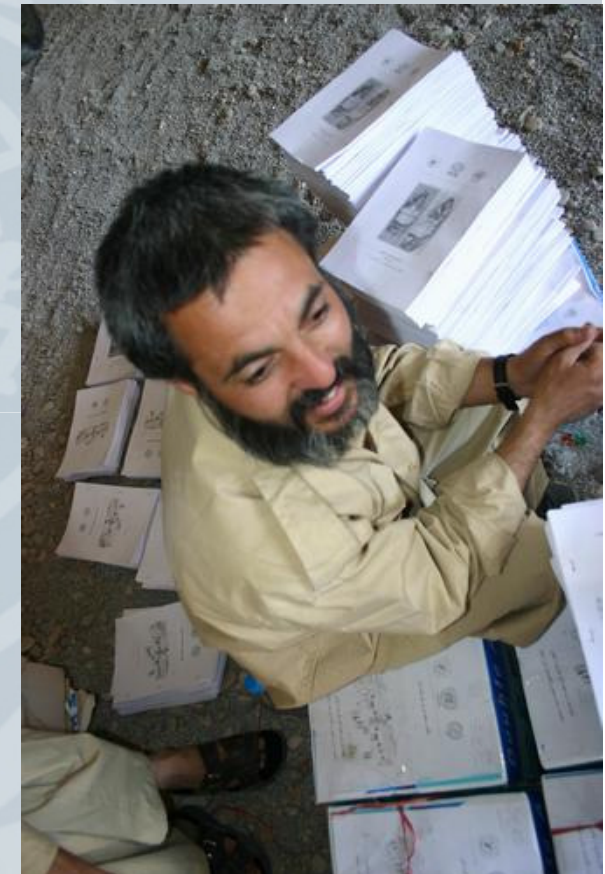
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The Process

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External Voting

The Process



How does it start?

- Electoral Management Bodies
- International Organizations working in the post conflict situations



External Voting

The Process



Pre-election assessment

Identifies **needs**
and constraints
for conducting
free and fair
elections in host
country





External Voting

The Process



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Pre-election assessment

It will include *inter alia*

- **Size** of the electorate
- **Ethnic and geographic distribution** of the electorate, including *gender, education* and *language*
- **Legal, educational, social situation** and **status** of migrants
- **Security situation** in the host countries



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External Voting

The Process Agreement



Defines the activities to be implemented in OCV

e.g. registration;
voting; provision of
ITC; training for
temporary staff;
voter education



الخارجية/الانتخابات العراقية/اتفاقية



External Voting The Process



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Office Structure

Depends on the kind and size of program to be implemented

- **Liaison Office** with the EMB
- External Voting **Headquarters**
- **Country Offices** to coordinate and oversee operations



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External Voting

The Process



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Evaluation

- **Number** of potential voters
- **Geographical distribution** of the potential voters
- **Timeframe**
- **Attitudes** towards electoral results



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THANK YOU!



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