Joint EC-UNDP Thematic Workshop on Sustainability in Electoral Administration: Adequate Resourcing for Credible Elections
A comparative analysis of the costs of polling in advanced democracies, developing countries, elections in crisis areas, post conflict and transitional elections

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I-Definition of Typologies

- Advanced democracies
- Crisis areas
- Transitional elections
- Post-conflict elections
II-Cost drivers

• Political context
• “Electoral tradition”
• Electoral systems
• Institutional arrangement
• Economic development
• Litteracy rate/ Level education
• Usage of development
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- Political context
- "Electoral tradition"
- Electoral systems
- Institutional arrangement
- Economic development
- Literacy rate/Level education
- Usage of development
III-Polling cost variations within typologies

- **Within advanced democracies**
  - Cost varies according to the size of the country and the electorate
  - Costs imbedded in national budgets and local administrations
  - Volunteership

- **Within crisis areas, transitional elections, post-conflicts**
  - Infrastructures (roads, airports, premises, warehouses, equipment, communications, transports,)
  - Polling personnel
  - International experts
  - Voting material
  - Security
IV-Bugdets
V. Funding polling: Donors versus Governments

• Baskets funds in most post-conflict countries (Afghanistan, Timores, DRC, Liberia, Côte d’Ivoire, Mali, Sierra Leone)

• Governments contribution: fully funded: Libya, Algeria, Nigeria, Ghana, Angola, Ghana, Senegal, Egypt. Half-funded: DRC, Tanzania, Malawi
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VI-Trends in Polling Costs Management

1. Cost sharing of electoral materials in order to reduce core costs e.g. sharing of ballot boxes (Ghana)

2. Producing low cost materials locally (Indonesia, Australia, Canada, South Africa, Nicaragua)

3. Adopting cost-effective polling methodologies (e-voting in India has saved costs and time, Rwanda uses volunteers as polling clerks)

4. Storage and recycling of polling materials e.g. ballot boxes, e-voting machines, vehicles etc (common trend in most countries)

5. Linking election planning to overall development of the country e.g. infrastructural development
Conclusion

• Costs of polling reflect the level of trust in the process
• The lower the trust, the higher the costs of the polling, the electoral process or an electoral component (Kenya, Ghana, Côte d'Ivoire and Senegal)
• It's better to invest in a long term: improving governance (education, health, economic performance, citizen participation, human rights, gender equality, including youth, minority, poor and marginalised) training parties, promoting a credible Civil Society, building capacity of EMBs, civic education