



**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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# 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, premisses, warehouses, equipements, communications, transports,)
  - Polling personnel
  - International experts
  - Voting material
  - Security

# IV-Budgets



## 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 pollig 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)
- Its 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