Polling Sequence
Implications on Sustainability

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International Foundation for Electoral Systems
Polling Models

Single Day

• Lower administrative costs
• Turnout impact
• Integrity costs and benefits

Multiple Day and Staggered Elections

• Convenient for Voters
• Maximize Turnout
• Efficacy dependent on context and environment
Multi Day Elections

Elections held over a number of consecutive days, generally two or maximum three

• voting in two rounds, round one to establish the leading candidates with a second round at a later date to determine the election winner.
• voting conducted on different days for electoral districts in different geographic areas.
• voting for more than one day in a single round election.
• voting, such as early voting or mobile voting stations, being held for more than one day.

Staggered Elections: elections held over several consecutive phases, with one phase that may be held several weeks (or even months away) after the preceding one
Multi Day Elections: Cost and Sustainability Considerations

- Security
- Voting Station Premises
- Material/Equipment Management
- Capacity Planning
- Staffing
- Voter Information
Assessing Costs Across Electoral Systems: Limitations

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country A</th>
<th>Country B</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• Urbanized, literate</td>
<td>• Rural, non-literate</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Large polling stations (1500 – 2000 voters)</td>
<td>• Poor transport system</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Good transportation systems</td>
<td>• Small polling stations (less than 400)</td>
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<tr>
<td>• High trust resulting in cheaper cardboard materials for balloting</td>
<td>• Low trust so high impact material clear ballot boxes used</td>
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<tr>
<td>• No security print on ballots</td>
<td>• High security, inking, four color security print ballots</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Minimal security</td>
<td>• Electoral System, for example: MMP, AV, FPTP etc</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• No inking</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Electoral System, for example: TRS, open list PR, STV etc</td>
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</tbody>
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Final Thoughts

• Costs and sustainability can only be assessed against the very specific goals that particular system is designed to address in that very specific context.
• More research needs to be done into the costs of elections across different variables and contexts.
• Direct vs diffused costs.
• Political considerations-- election costs as a consequence political decisions.