



# ***Joint Training on Effective Electoral Assistance***

*Accra, 29 June – 3 July 2009*

## ***IOM and Electoral Support***

**Francesca Marzatico**  
**International Organization for Migration**

Organized with



In collaboration with





# Overview

15 MINUTES!!!

**What is IOM?**

**Why is IOM involved  
in Electoral Support?**

**IOM's experience  
in Elections**

**Why is IOM in the Global Training Platform on  
EEA?**



Organized within



In collaboration with





# What is IOM?

---

## *How did it begin?*



Organized with



In collaboration with





# IOM is...



*an international organization, founded at a conference in Brussels on **5 December 1951** to help resolve the problems of the huge numbers of people – “surplus population” – in Europe who were displaced or unemployed and needing to move following the war.*



# IOM's 16 Funding Members



- Australia
- Austria
- Belgium
- Bolivia
- Brazil
- Canada
- Chile
- Federal Republic of Germany
- France
- Greece
- Italy
- Luxembourg
- The Netherlands
- Switzerland
- Turkey
- United States of America



# Today IOM has...

---

- **125** Member States.
- **90** observers including **16** States and **74** global and regional IGOs and NGOs
- More than **420** offices at present in more than **120** States
- Approximately **5,600** operational staff at present, almost entirely in the field.
- More than **1,770** active projects
- Operational budget of approx **1.1 billion**



# What is IOM for?

---

## **Mission Statement**

*“IOM is committed to the principle that **humane and orderly migration benefits migrants and society**”*

Organized within



In collaboration with





# What does IOM do?





# Why is IOM involved in Electoral Support?



Organized with



In collaboration with





# Because...

*IOM believes that 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.*





# Election Support Unit

*Planning, coordination and oversight of election processes dealt with by IOM.*

*Support to Governments to expand the access to democratic electoral process.*





# Support to Electoral Process: How?

**Out of Country Voting**

Complex logistic and procurement

**Technical Support to the enfranchisement of Displaced Population**

**Capacity Building and Technical Assistance as community stabilization tool**

**Support to European Observation Missions**

Complex logistic and procurement

**Capacity Development for EU and Domestic Election Observers (NEEDS w/ International IDEA, Internews, EISA, Chapel)**





# Out-of Country Voting

*Providing access to voting to migrants*

**Inclusion of migrants and displaced populations** into democratic electoral processes in their countries/territories of origin

**Migrants' representation** in the civil and political life at home (encouragement in maintaining links with their communities of origin)

**Empowerment of those otherwise disenfranchised**





# OCV Operations

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	846,776	737,776	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

Organized within



In collaboration with





# *Support to enfranchisement of displaced populations*



- **Two technical cooperation projects:**

2002-2004

- **PEP - Participatory Elections Project:**

Developing obligations, standards, and best practices

2004-2007

- **PRESS - Political Rights and Enfranchisement System Strengthening:**

Developing international, regional, and national capacity to enfranchise migrants

Organized within



In collaboration with



CIDA



IOM



OAS

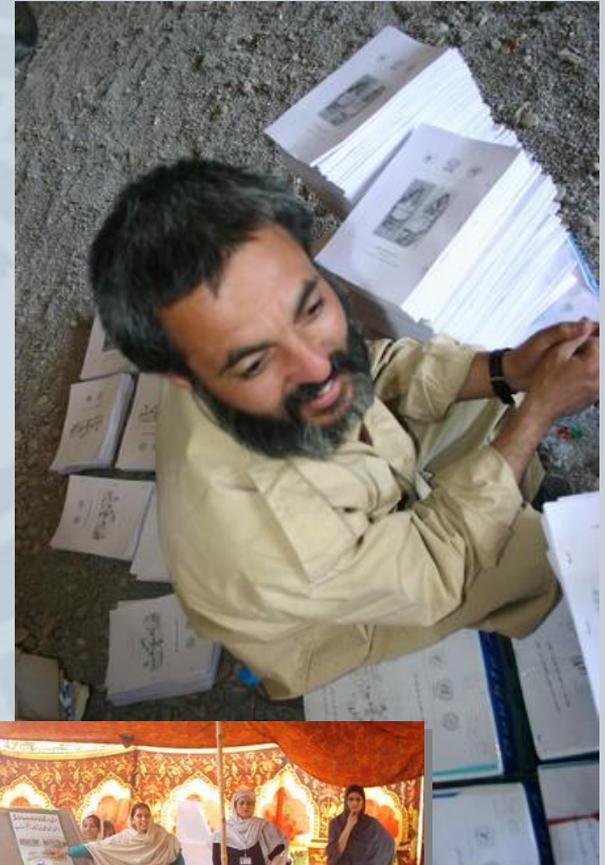


# Capacity Development and Technical Support

Strengthening the countries ability to conduct external voting programs and strengthen ties with their migrants through their diplomatic and consular missions abroad.

**Capacity development** mechanisms and **technical support** include:

- Voter awareness and voter education campaign (normally targeting displaced electorates).
- Upgrading and standardizing information systems.
- Training/Support of Consular Officers.





# Support to EU Election Observation Missions

*Support for the human rights of migrants, and democratization in third countries*

Support to the EU priority to promote human rights and democratization in its relations with third countries.

- Since **2001**, IOM has supported more than **35** EU Election Observation Missions (EU EOMs) worldwide.
- Often implemented **complex emergency settings**.
- Involve huge **logistical arrangements**





# *Challenges of Electoral Support*

---

**Security Constraints**

**Lack of adequate infrastructure**

**Bureaucracy of host countries**

**Complex Logistical Arrangements**

**Lack of institutional memory**

**Tight deadlines and short timeframe  
between preparedness and  
implementation**





# *Why is IOM in the Global Training Platform on EEA?*

**Inclusion of displaced population in the electoral process:**

**OCV Operations**

**Training for EMBs and practitioners on Enfranchisement of displaced populations**

**...JEREMY**





Thank you!

