

European Commission United Nations Development Programme International IDEA

Joint Training on Effective Electoral Assistance

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Domestic observation in Mozambique: The experience of PVT in 2003 and 2004









Domestic Observation

• Usually:

- Single organisations, but increasingly coalitions
- Focus on literal observation of registration, campaign, voting and counting, and tabulation
- Statements on quality of electoral process based on a set of principles

• Recently:

- More technically-challenging and "invasive" observation: PVT and voters' roll audits









Parallel Vote Tabulation (PVT)

- Aka Quick Count (NDI)
- Based on collection of official tally sheets at polling stations
- Based on a random sample of polling stations
- Size of sample determines margin of error
- Requires observation of voting and counting at polling station
- Requires a good database to process collected data









- Politically sensitive 1999 attempt
- Conducted by Electoral Observatory
- Municipal elections pilot experience for 2004
- 10 out of 33 municipalities covered: 3 largest municipalities and 7 politically-disputed or conflict-prone municipalities
- 3 largest municipalities: sample-based; other 7 municipalities: full PVT
- 486 observers









- Main achievements:
 - With exception of one city, all results came within the expected 2% margin of error
 - PVT results available within 48 hours
 - The official provisional result of one mayoral election was corrected by EMB on the basis of the PVT result
 - Training, deployment and communications processes were successful
 - Credibility of PVT and CS capacity established









- Expanded Electoral Observatory
- National elections: presidential and parliamentary
- Sample-based only
- 750 polling stations (out of 12,000) + 1,500 observers – 2.5% margin of error
- Logistically challenging
- Transmission of results by phone, fax or email
- Results shared with EMB and political parties but not with public before official results









- Main achievements:
 - PVT results available 48 hours after elections
 - PVT results within 0.5% of official results
 - PVT helped demonstrate instances of electoral fraud
 - PVT helped acceptance of election results by opposition – contributed to post-election stability



