2008/09 EC Electoral Assistance Project in Lebanon, Niall McCann, Chief Technical Advisor

1. How did we arrive at final list of activities?
2. What did we implement?
3. What was successful?
4. What were the challenges?
5. What can we focus on next (2009 EU EOM Recommendations?!)

How did we arrive at final list of activities?

- 2005 EU EOM Recommendations
- Funding of National Commission on Electoral Reform
- Funding of 2008 IfS Feasability Study
- Selection of Transtec as imp. partner
- Presentation of Master Plan by Minister
- Agreement of final Transtec Terms of Reference

How did we arrive at final list of activities? (contd.)

- ❑ Agreement on activities programme with other international partners (USAID/IFES, UNDP)
- ❑ Drafting and signing of Memorandum of Understanding between Ministry of the Interior and Municipalities and EC Delegation, 21/1/09.

What did we implement?

- Focused on **two main reforms** included in 2008 Parliamentary Election Law

1) the Supervisory Commission on the Election Campaign (responsibility for monitoring and controlling chapters of the Election Law related to campaign finance and media)

2) Provision of international standard polling equipment (transparent ballot boxes, standardised voting booths, indelible ink, voting envelopes, 34 prefabricated polling stations, polling station kits, polling station branding)

What did we implement (contd.)

- Focused on **two other activities** to enhance capacity of the Ministry to implement more transparent elections

1) First element of computerisation of election results system

2) Provision of IT equipment/miscellaneous equipment (e.g. communications equipment, security equipment)/office furniture to all levels of the Ministry.

What was successful?

- **SCEC** – body established from scratch
- We provided TA SCEC organisational docs, draft by-laws, operational plan, etc.
- We provided all IT equipment, media monitoring equipment (TVs, DVD players, DVDs, specialist media monitoring software)
- We drafted media monitoring methodology in association with SCEC
- We trained 45 media monitors
- We provided 12 junior experts, including 8 campaign finance account verifiers
- Work still ongoing (SCEC to report to Parliament in Dec)

What was successful (contd.)?

- **International standard polling equipment**.
- Voting envelopes provided much greater accountability.
- Voting booths greatly enhanced secrecy of the vote.
- Indelible ink and transparent ballot boxes were mandated by the 2008 Election Law and were provided to a high standard
- Prefabricated polling stations meant no stations in private houses, Mukhtar houses, or houses belonging to political figures for first time in Lebanon
- Branding of polling stations added to perception of professionally-run elections
- Voter education material standardised across all polling stations

What was successful (contd.)?

- **Election results processing system**
- Electronic display of results for all districts for first time during Minister's announcement
- Detailed results for all candidates published during announcement
- Publication of polling station results on Ministry website (E+12 days) major step forward for transparency of election results system

What were the challenges?

- Context – first time for technical assistance in Lebanon
- Lack of overall approved elections budget
- Building local relationships, local and international
- Terms of reference of Transtec project v MoU between Ministry and EC Delegation
- Relationship with observers
- TA replacing, rather than enhancing, local capacity
- Occasional reluctance by Ministry to embrace new methods, particularly in the IT area
- Lack of access to the Minister
- Post-electoral hiatus

Other lessons learned?

- Donors to push for approved elections budget?
- Electoral cycle approach easier where full-time EMB
- Consider assistance to EMP beyond direct electoral support (e.g. Ministry capacity in IT, communications, etc.)

What can we focus on next (2009 EU EOM Recommendations?!)

- Pre-printed ballots
- Enhancing SCEC to add responsibilities (e.g. OCU, management of results processing)
- Out-of-Country voting
- Further results computerisation
- Voting by place of residence
- Enhancing campaign finance regulations to fight anomalies in the current system

Wider capacity building issues?

- Civil registry

- IT/ communications within the Ministry

- Written procedures within the Ministry.

- Thank you – mccniall@gmail.com