

DAY 3

SDC's approach to support to Electoral Reforms

Electoral Support

Electoral observation

Electoral assistance

Election management bodies
+ electoral dispute resolution bodies

other stakeholders:
civil society, media, political parties, int. community

Trust
Ability
Credibility

Commit to electoral Support under careful consideration of risks

Close cooperation between SDC & HSD

Take a long-term approach: programs across electoral cycles & across multiple cycles

Diversify means of support (not only basket fund for EMBs)

Shareweb DDL6
Topics -> Democratization -> Elec Support

Questions Remarks

Electoral Reform support - on system - different level
≠ election support - Import to be clear on which aspect of cycle

Good understanding of dynamics

where added value within cycle

engagement during whole year (not during elections)

How to create DEMANDS FOR ELECTORAL REFORMS?

Momentum created by PEA!

Risks

OSCE's Role + other reg. org

Role of OSCE, UNDP, CH, ...

Traditional challenges:
- EMB lack of skills, capacities, funds
- electoral malpractice
- election-related violence
- out-of-country voting

Contemporary challenges:
- all traditional challenges
- growing authoritarianism eroding democratic values
- undermining, manipulation from abroad
- cyber-security of electoral processes

Election cycle approach (ECA)
int. standard since 2005

ECA allows a systematic assessment of support
avoiding excessive focus on election day

ECA to be connected with broader democratic agenda:
- strengthen elected institutions
- support registration
- supporting separation of powers
- empowering citizens to participate

SDC main focus:
- domestic election observation
- supporting EMBs in organizing elections
- voter education, awareness raising
- public debates
- media work, training journalists
- participation of women & dis. groups

Diagram illustrating the Electoral Cycle Approach (ECA) components:

- Pre-voting period: Includes Voter registration, Training & Educ., and Planning & implementation.
- Legal framework: Includes Constitution, Legislation, Electoral systems, and Codes of conduct.
- Post-elections: Includes Post-elections and Legal framework.
- Core ECA: Includes EMB, Election Campaign, Voter registration, and Training & Educ.
- Other components: Includes Voting Period, Voter information & advice, and Voter operations.