



Observing Bio-metric Voter Registration

What to look for?

Workshop on BVR, Zimbabwe, August 2017



What to Observe?

- Analysis of the Framework
- Observation of the VR Operation
- Observation of the bio-metric component
- Voter Registry Surveys



Analysis of the Framework

- **Analysis of the Primary & Secondary Legislation**
 - Laws, Regulations, Rules, Instructions, Guidelines
- **Development of the framework**
 - Accountability
 - Inclusiveness
 - political issues etc
- **Compliance with the standards**
 - National: i.e. right on information, constitutional rights, privacy laws
 - International standards: obligations, commitments and proposed guidelines



Int'l Electoral Standards

Agreed
Practices

Political
Commitments

Public International Law



UN Human Rights Committee - General Comment 25

PROHIBITED LIMITATIONS

Race, colour, sex, language, religion, political or other opinion, national or social origin, property, birth, physical disability, education, illiteracy, property, party membership, homeless

ALLOWED LIMITATIONS

Age, residency, members of particular public service positions, conviction

CONDITION for LIMITATION

Objective & reasonable criteria, established by the law

RESPONSIBILITY OF STATE

Effective measures, facilitation, no obstacles, voter and registration campaign



What Needs to Be Defined in the Law

- types of **citizenship** and proof of **age** documentation;
- types of **residency** documentation;
- **methods** of voter registration;
- processes for dealing with **objections and appeals**;
- **voter identification**; and
- **documentation** required by voters.



Other Voter Registration Issues

Citizenship

Vulnerable Groups

Age

Identification Documents

Residency Requirements

Effective Remedy

Prisoners

Right to Information

Military

Right to Privacy

Mental Capacity



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Methodology of Observation - VR Operation

SELECTING THE METHODOLOGY

ACTIVE, DIRECT RECORDING OF VR

PASSIVE vs ACTIVE OBSERVATION

SAMPLING vs CROWDSOURCING



Example of Forms for Passive Observation of VR

- **Registration Center #**
- **Visit a) 1st b)2nd**
- **Date Time**
- **Could you find the RC?**
 - a) **Yes, RC was in the location as on the list**
 - b) **Yes, but RC moved to a different location than on the list**
 - c) **No, RC doesn't seem to exist**
- **Was the RC accessible?**
 - a) **Yes, RC was in accessible building and clearly marked**
 - b) **Yes, RC was in accessible building but there were no clear signs**
 - c) **No, RC was hard to notice and hardly accessible**
 - d) **The RC is in an area cut off area from where potential applicants live**



Example of Forms for Passive Observation of VR

- **Was the RC open?**
 - a) Yes
 - b) Closed, no officials there
 - c) Closed, ran out of materials
 - d) Closed, insufficient staff
 - e) Closed by Israeli security
 - f) Closed because of security/safety issues not related to Israeli security
 - g) Closed, quota of 3000 registered voters reached
 - h) Unknown/unclear reasons
 - i) Other known reasons
- **How many officials were at the RC?** M) F)



Example of Forms for Passive Observation of VR

- **Did officials report any serious problems prior to your arrival? Explain if needed:**
 - a) Officials hesitated to talk about it
 - b) No problems reported
 - c) Ran out of materials
 - d) Insufficient training for registration officials
 - e) Insufficient or late pay for registration officials
 - f) Interference or closing by security personnel
 - g) Security/safety issues not related to Israeli security
 - h) Interference by political parties or civic organizations
 - i) Angry citizens
 - i) Other reasons
- **How many people registered (total) prior to your arrival? Explain if needed:**
 - a) Officials said they are not allowed to report
 - b) Officials said approximate number []
 - c) Officials reported number from their log book []



Example of Forms for Passive Observation of VR

- How many people did you witness applying?
- How many people did you witness being rejected?
- What was the reason for rejection of applicants? (that you witnessed) Explain if needed:
 - a) Nobody was rejected
 - b) Applicant didn't have documents to prove eligibility
 - c) Applicant could prove eligibility, but had insufficient documents to prove the residence
 - d) Applicant acted as a proxy (not for a detainee)
 - e) Applicant was from another area and redirected to another RC
 - f) Applicant refused to unveil
 - g) Applicant was too young
 - h) Other reason (explain)
 - x) N/A (nobody applied while monitoring RC)
- How many applicants did you witness being rejected incorrectly?
- How many applicants did you witness registering incorrectly?
- How many applicants did you witness not receiving a receipt?
- How many applicants did you witness not being instructed to return to the center for the exhibition and challenge period?



Example of Forms for Passive Observation of VR

- Did the RC officials generally follow the procedures? a) No applicants, b) Yes b) No (explain)
- How many formal complaints (in total) were filed, by whom, what was the nature of complaints?
- Which political parties or civic organizations were present at the centre? (while you were there)
- Was the RC in order?
 - a) Yes, but there were no many applicants present anyway
 - b) Yes, even with many applicants at the RC
 - c) No, it was disorganized and confusing for the applicants
 - d) No, officials did not control the order at all
- Was there any political party material at the RC?
 - a) No
 - b) No, only CEC posters
 - c) Yes (explain)
- Were there any individuals present at the RC besides applicants and officials?
 - a) No
 - b) Yes, security forces
 - c) Yes, foreign security forces
 - d) Yes, unidentified unarmed civilians
 - e) Yes, unidentified armed civilians
 - f) Other
- What did you think about performance of officials?
 - a) N/A, there were no applicants
 - b) Officials performed duty professionally
 - c) Officials did not seem to be fully competent
 - d) Officials were incompetent and confused



Observation of the bio-metric component

• PRE-DEPLOYMENT

- Software and database compatibility
- Testing; end to end, accuracy, load, usability, feedback and lessons learnt
- Training
- Security

• DEPLOYMENT

- Data capturing
- Backup options
- Support and service
- Data management and transfer



Voter Register Surveys

- examine **quality/accuracy (e.g. errors or missing data)** of the voters records
- examine the need for the **supplementary** VR
- provide information on VR as a **confidence building** measure
- provide data on **distribution of voters**
- examine the **availability and transparency** of voter records;
- estimate “**ghost voters**,” ineligible voters
- examine **compatibility with constituency** delimitation data
- examine **performance of VR officials**
- guide **motivation and information campaign** for VR.



Survey of the List

- **List to People**
- **People to List**
- **Database Tests**