POST-ELECTION PLANNING & COALITIONS

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Overview

• Developing a post-election strategy: Framework and exchanging experiences

• Developing and managing coalitions during and in-between elections: Models and lessons learned
Post-election Depression: Symptoms of “PED”

• Donor funding dries up
• International community priorities shift drastically
• Media spotlight turns away
• Activists and volunteers disengage: post-election activities tend not to utilize entire volunteer network
• Less organizational focus and direction
Post-Election Strategic Planning: Steps

1. Conduct post-election assessment
   • Assess external environment; identify challenges to address
   • Internal assessment (SWOT analysis)

2. Review, refine and agree upon mission, vision and goals
   • Includes coordinating with coalition members and broader civil society

3. Design operational elements of carrying out the goals: objectives, projects and activities
Post-election Strategic Planning: Steps continued

4. Develop action plan
   - Delegate responsibilities
   - Set up timelines
   - Assess what financial and other resources are needed to achieve the plan

5. Distribute and communicate the plan throughout the organization and coalition

6. Fundraise
Post-election Internal Assessment

- Identify strengths and weaknesses of observation methods; lessons learned
- SWOT analysis of organization
- Set goals for future organizational development and increased election monitoring skills, including:
  - observer recruitment
  - training, and deployment
  - form design and data transmission
  - use of technology
  - fundraising
  - media outreach
Post-election External Assessment

• Prioritize electoral reform needs: legislation and practice
• Prioritize other structural democratic challenges (i.e., lack of accountability among elected officials, threat of political violence, barriers to citizen participation)
• Assess funding environment

NDI Guide: Promoting Legal Frameworks for Democratic Elections
• http://www.ndi.org/node/14905
Post-Election Goals: Prioritize!

- Maintain electoral momentum and initiate necessary reforms
- Ensure that electoral recommendations are implemented
- Motivate and educate citizens on advocating for their cause and holding elected officials accountable
- Ensure timely planning for the upcoming election
- Keep volunteers mobilized and engaged
- Enhance group’s internal capacity
Inter-election Organizational Sustainability

• Develop post-election plans before election program even begins
• Maintain your volunteer network
• Build internal capacity
• Set up regular coordination meetings in your coalition
• Develop long-term strategic plans (3-5 years)
• Fundraise based on a strategy!
• Organizations should be flexible to alter internally to adopt new political and economic circumstances
Partnership Options

• One unified, **single organization**
• Different types of **coalitions or networks**
  • Formal or loose
  • Geographic coverage or organizational strength
• Groups **coordinate** to avoid duplication but do separate organizational efforts
• Groups **work separately** with little coordination
Unified, Single Organization

One group with an executive director and staff responsible to a board
• CDD in Ghana, OPORA in Ukraine

Advantages
• Simple decision making
• Funding is simple

Challenges
• Is there an organization that has the capacity and nationwide coverage?
• Would one organization have full credibility and sufficient resources?
• Would one organization be prepared to take a strong stand in a difficult situation?
Formal Coalition

- Network of different organizations that pool resources
- Coalition has unique identity and organizational structure
- Allows groups to centralize the resources, leadership and decisionmaking, and provides for clearer, more cohesive messaging and direction for the effort
- Can last in between elections

- Project Swift Count in Nigeria; CODE in Guinea; Senegal; Sierra Leone
- FEMA in Bangladesh, Civic Alliance in Mexico, MOST in Macedonia, ZESN in Zimbabwe
Coalition Models

Geographic Coverage Model

• Each group’s role is matched to where it has the best geographic coverage, in terms of 1) physical presence; and/or 2) volunteers/activists/members/contacts who can coordinate and mobilize.

Organizational Strength Model

• Each group has a particular role matched to what its organizational strengths or at least priorities/goals are (e.g. Sierra Leone, Kenya, Malawi)
Geographic Coverage Coalition

**Advantages**
- Maximizes use of pooled resources
- Coalition is able to cover more of the country
- Coalition speaks for a broad cross section of representative organizations
- Strength in numbers

**Challenges**
- Agreeing on the board
- Who speaks for the coalition?
- Financial management and applying for funds can be confusing for donors
- Recruiting qualified staff, not choosing people to satisfy member organizations
- Managing personalities
- Meeting regularly
Organizational Strength Coalition

**Advantages**
- Good starting point when organizations cannot resolve decisionmaking issues
- Useful where groups have different skill sets

**Challenges**
- Coordination is more difficult
- Competition for donor funds
- There may not be enough funding or support for different coordinations
Loose Coalition/Network: Coordination of Separate Observer Groups

• Several civil society groups coordinate regularly to limit duplication, and they share information, methodology, and potentially materials (forms, manuals)

• Groups work separately but strategically, and deliver separate or joint statements.
  • Examples: ECC in Liberia?; Cote d’Ivoire?; Mali?; CNSC in Togo; Sri Lanka; Cambodia; Kyrgyzstan
**Loose Coalition/Coordination**

**Advantages**
- Plurality of viewpoints on the process
- Groups retain their own identity and decisionmaking powers
- Specialist groups may investigate specific issues

**Challenges**
- Difficult to bridge political and regional divides
- Tough to sustain in between elections.
- Obtaining for separate organizations
- Level of expertise may vary widely and can undermine efforts of more credible groups
Groups Monitor Separately

• No coordination
• Differing goals
• Mistrust, competition for recruiting observers and donor resources
• Different statements can be contradictory and confusing
Coalition Decisionmaking & Procedures

All coalitions should have:

• Decision making body
  • Board, council, or just representatives from each member

• Procedures
  • Outline parameters for the partnership in MOU, charter, agreement
Merci!

Thank you!
Session 1 Group Exercise

• Group 1: Electoral Reform

• Group 2: Citizen Participation and Accountability of Elected Officials

• Group 3: Peacebuilding and Violence Mitigation