

INTRODUCTIONS









GENDER AND ELECTION OBSERVATION: OBJECTIVES

- Understand why gender is important for election observation
- Identify potential barriers to women's participation in electoral process generally and in Burma specifically
- Increase knowledge of how to incorporate gender aspects into election observationincluding trainings, materials and reporting.

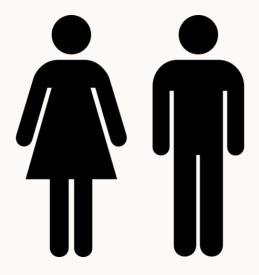
GENDER AND ELECTION OBSERVATION TOPICS

- Pre-Election Monitoring
- Short-term/Election Day monitoring
- Recruitment/Observer team composition
- Observation forms/checklists
- Training for observers/TOT
- Observer reporting



KEY TERMS

- Gender
- Sex
- Gender equality
- Gender Equity







What is an example of a gender norm for women in Burma?



Why GENDER AND ELECTION OBSERVATION

 Domestic observers should assess the quality of women's participation in each stage of the electoral process as part of their assessment of the quality of an election

 Key opportunity to evaluate and strengthen women's participation in politics, as well as the participatory quality of an election



Why GENDER AND ELECTION OBSERVATION

- Democratic elections should be inclusive, transparent and accountable
- Inclusive elections are those that enable men <u>and</u> women to participate (50/50)
- The principle of inclusion is not only about enabling but also taking positive action to address particular barriers women might face

Why GENDER AND ELECTION OBSERVATION

Democratic elections must include women's equal participation in every phase of the election, including pre-during and post-as:

- Voters
- Candidates
- -Election administrators
- -Observers



PRE-ELECTION: women as voters, candidates & workers

- Documentation
- Registration
- Voter Education
- Nomination process
- Campaigns
- Election Workers





PRE-ELECTION: women as voters

- Observing the inclusiveness of voting requires assessing whether norms and policies exist to guarantee men and women have:
 - Access to voter registration locals
 - Access to voter registration and verification process
 - Access to complaint process



PRE-ELECTION: women as voters

- Women face significant barriers to participation as voters during registration and voting
- Physical, legal, logistical, historical/ traditional, social and cultural barriers





PRE-ELECTION/E-Day: INSTITUTIONAL/PROCESS BARRIERS

- Voter registration Documentation requirements difficult for women to provide due to loss or lack of papers/conflict or internal displacement
- Location and hours of registration centers and polling stations can also cause obstacles for women including transportation or limits on freedom of movement, domestic and childcare responsibilities as well as work schedules;
- Concerns about security at polling/registration stations may dissuade women;
- Conditions at registration or polling stations-long lines, weather, surroundings

PRE-ELECTION/E-Day: What to Observe?

- Assess if women are disproportionately affected by problems with voter registration process:
- Do identification requirements have a negative impact on women?
- Is the registration location accessible for women?
- Is disaggregated data available to allow for a practical analysis of women's participation?
- Do women face threats of violence at registration? (Nigeria-Bar)



Burkina Faso

 For Burkina Faso's 2012 presidential election, women faced greater obstacles because of a requirement that citizens obtain a birth certificate before they could register

 Significant numbers of women lacked birth certificates because parents often would not bother to get one for girl children

 This requirement presented a burdensome requirement on women and could effectively disenfranchised them if not addressed

PRE/E-DAY: SOCIO-CULTURAL BARRIERS FOR WOMEN

- Time constraints-domestic duties;
- Lack of awareness of ballot secrecy/fear that secrecy of vote may be compromised; perception that they may face retaliation for independent choices from family;
- Prevalence of family and proxy voting, pressure to vote along family/tribal/ethnic lines; and
- Social norms may create a sense of disempowerment for women or restrict choices and/or restrict women's freedom of I movement

POTENTIAL BARRIERS: Legal/Social-cultural?

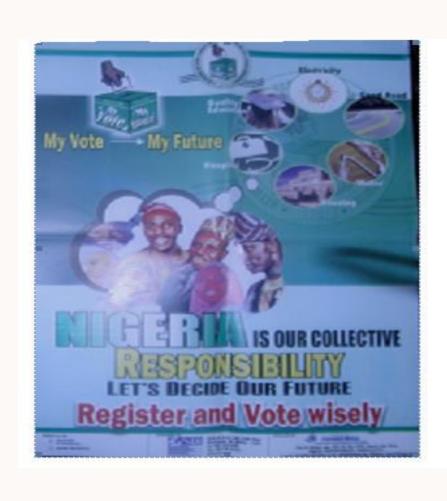
- Do women in Burma face Barriers to Registering to Vote?
- Do identification requirements pose a problem for women?
- Are there access barriers or other process issues in Burma (location)?
- •Are there social norms that will impact women's knowledge, desire or ability to participate in Burma as voters or candidates (time, confidence..)?

PRE-ELECTION: VOTER EDUCATION

- Observers can analyze voter education programs to determine if particular needs of women and whether they are being addressed (Previous questions)
 - ✓ Who is responsible for voter education?
 - ✓ What are the key messages on them?
 - ✓ Do they sufficiently to address the specific needs of the electorate-male and female?



Exercise: Assess Voter Education





PRE-ELECTION: WOMEN CANDIDATES

- Observing the inclusiveness of elections for candidates involves paying attention to norms and practices that affect equity in men and women's ability to run for public office, & can include:
 - Electoral systems
 - Nominating procedures
 - Political party practices
 - Political-electoral financing systems
 - Media/social media coverage



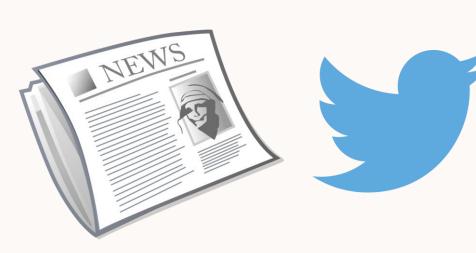
PRE-ELECTION: WOMEN CANDIDATES

- Key aspect monitors can assess is election coverage by mediaincluding social mediaof female candidates
- Fair coverage?
- Equal coverage?
- Coverage of women's priority issues or hair?



PRE-ELECTION: WOMEN CANDIDATES

Example from Burma of unfair coverage of female candidates?







PRE-ELECTION: ELECTION ADMINISTRATION

- Assess the number of Women in election administration
- How many women are in Leadership and decisionmaking roles?
- Women should have ability to participate as election observers, commission members, poll workers etc.





PRE-ELECTION: ELECTION ADMINISTRATION

- Assess the election administration body's awareness of barriers for women
- Gauge the responsiveness of those bodies to any related issues that arise.





Back To: Burkina Faso

 The Ministry of the Interior responded to issue of birth certificates by implementing a mobile registration initiative in the five regions with the lowest registration rates.

• This helped 16,000 women seeking to register to obtain birth certificates first.

PRE-ELECTION Interview Key Stakeholders

 Important to utilize women's organizations as a source of information on gender-related issues in pre-election phase

 Women's organizations are especially useful in contexts where official data on women's participation is nonexistent inaccessible



PRE-ELECTION Interview Key Stakeholders

- What are women's voter participation rates? How do they compare to men's?
- Are there unique barriers to women's electoral participation? Have there been any threats unique to women?
- Previous voter education and outreach programs? By whom?



ELECTION DAY: THE VOTE

- ✓ Is the polling station secure? Safe?
- ✓ How many women on polling station committee?
- ✓ What is sex of chairperson of committee
- ✓ How many women party poll-watchers?
- ✓ Do women voters' understand the procedure?
- ✓ Is there sex disaggregated voter c

ELECTION DAY: THE VOTE

- ✓ Voters turned away-how many women?
- ✓ Is the secrecy of the vote protected?
- ✓ Are there instances of family or proxy voting?
- ✓ Are there instances of violence against voters or workers? Is yes, what types?
- ✓ What are the voter rates at the central and regional levels?

METHODOLGOY: DOMESTIC OBSERVATION

 Step 1 is to identify these issues/challenges for a particular context for women

- Step 2 is to identify key questions to include to assess women's ability to participate
- Questions on all checklists and incident report forms

				icion y registro g		
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	Aldea:					Fech
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	Sí, a ho	mbres	Sí, a mujeres	Sí, a LGBTI	No, ninguno	1
A.2	motivado violenta?	En el último mes algún candidato o simpatizante político ha notivado a personas de la comunidad para que actúen de forma iolenta? (Seleccione todos los que apliquen y llene F2) Si, a hombres Si, a mujeres Si, a LGBTI No, ninguno				
A.3	político h	En el último mes en la comunidad algún candidato o simpatizan iolítico ha hecho comentarios racistas en contra de otras iersonas? (Seleccione todos los que apliquen).				
		: Joelecon		apiiqueii).		Verificado
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1.4	¿En el últ político h	imo mes e a hecho d e todos los	Si, contra muieres en la comunidad comentarios de a	Sí, contra LGBTI d algún candidat	o o simpatizante	Verificado Verificado
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RECRUITMENT OF OBSERVATION TEAMS



- Gender balance of team members
- Recruitment strategy needs to consider particular barriers for women
- Recruitment messages target women

TRAINING FOR OBSERVERS

- Highlight importance of monitoring men and women's participation in election
- Build understanding of potential barriers and how to monitor them-where to look for them
- Include background information on women's status in country
- Observer manuals should provide guidance on questions



OBSERVATION STATEMENTS

- Participation of women as voters, candidates, workers
- Number of women elected (vs. previous elections)
- Number of women in election administration
- Gender-related security incidents/VAW-E







GENDER AND ELECTION OBSERVATION REVIEW

- Why women's participation is important
- Barriers to women's participation in Burma
- Issues to monitor/questions to ask
- Gender in recruitment, training and Reporting



THANK YOU





