**Violence Against Women In Elections**

**Observation Training Guideline**

**October 2015**

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Contents

[Welcome 3](#_Toc432750819)

[Ukaribisho 4](#_Toc432750820)

[Elections and Election Monitoring 5](#_Toc432750821)

[Chaguzi na Ufuatiliaji wa Uchaguzi 5](#_Toc432750822)

[Violence Against Women in Elections (VAW-E) 6](#_Toc432750823)

[Completing the Checklist and Reporting 9](#_Toc432750824)

[Crucial Activities Timeline 10](#_Toc432750825)

[Non Partisan Pledge KIAPO 11](#_Toc432750826)

[Annex 1: Definitions for Key Variables of VAW-E 12](#_Toc432750827)

# Welcome

On behalf of the Tanzania Women Cross Party Platform (TWCP), it is a pleasure to welcome you to the Election Observation Training. As you are aware, Tanzania will hold its fifth multi-party election on October 25, 2015. We first want to thank you for signing up to be an observer for these elections and we hope this will be a rewarding useful experience. Your efforts will contribute to Tanzania’s democratic process by monitoring all aspects of the electoral process to check whether all actors are playing by the rule of the game.

The 2015 election will be Tanzania’s fifth successive election since its transition to a multiparty system in 1992. The polls on October 25 provide yet another opportunity to test Tanzania’s democratic institutions towards the consolidation of democracy. As you are aware, these elections are keenly contested between the two major parties and the stakes are high.

This aim of this workshop is to inform you about:

* TWCP election observation project;
* the rules, regulations and code of conduct governing election observation;
* how to complete and report on the election day
* critical Election Day observation timelines

Once this workshop concluded, observers are expected to immediate deploy to their assigned district/constituency and observe the Election Day process.

I would like to note TWCP received technical support from the National Democratic Institute (NDI).

Again, thank you for signing up to work on this project and we look forward to working with you throughout the project period. Please do not hesitate to provide us feedback or suggestions on any aspects of the project.

Sincerely,

Dr. Ave Maria Semakafu

The National Coordinators

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# Ukaribisho

Kwa niaba ya TWCP, tunayo furaha kukukaribisha katika mafunzo ya uangalizi siku ya uchaguzi mkuu. Kama unavyofahamu, Tanzania itakua inafanya uchaguzi wake wa tano wa vyama vingi mnamo tarehe 25/10/2015. Kwanza tunatoa shukrani za dhati kwa kukubali kuwa mmoja wa waangalizi katika uchaguzi huu na hii itakupa uzoefu wenye manufaa kwako. Jitihada zako zitachangia katika ukuaji wa demokrasia katika nchi yetu kwa kuangalia mambo yote yanayohusiana na mchakato wa uchaguzi na kama wadau wote wanafuata taratibu na misingi ya sharia katika uchaguzi.

Uchaguzi wa mwaka huu, 2015 utakua ni uchaguzi wa tano kwa Tanzania tangu mfumo wa vyama vingi uanzishwe mwaka 1992. Uchaguzi wa tarehe 25/10.2015 ni kipimo kingine tosha cha kuweza kuona ni kwa namna gani taasisi mbalimbali za kidemokrasia nchini zinaweza kulinda na kusimamia demokrasia. Kama unavyofahamu, uchaguzi huu unashindaniwa na vyama vingi, na vyama viwili kati ya hivyo vipo katika mchuano mkali, hivyo kuna mambo mengi yanahitajika kuangaliwa kwa ukaribu.

Malengo ya mafunzo haya ni kuweza kukufahamisha wewe juu ya;

* Mradi wa uangalizi wa uchaguzi wa TWCP;
* Sheria na taratibu za zinazosimamia uangalizi wa uchaguzi
* Namna ya kujaza na kuripoti siku ya ya uchaguzi
* Umuhimu wa nyakati tofauti kwa uangalizi siku ya uchaguzi

Pindi mafunzo haya yatakapofikia tamati, waangalizi wanatarajiwa kuondoka mara moja na kuelekea katika wilaya/majimbo/mikoa watakayokuwa wamepangiwa kwa lengo la kwenda kuangalia matukio mbalimbali yanyohusiana na unyanyasaji wa kinjinsia kwa wanawake kipindi hiki cha uchaguzi. Mtu wa kuwasiliana nae katika mradi huu ni Hilda Dadu mwenye namba hii hapa 0756749446

Ikumbukwe kuwa TCWP walipokea msaada wa kitaalamu kutoka kwa National Democratic Institute (NDI)

Kwa mara nyingine tena, tunakushukuru sana kwa kukubali kufanya kazi katika mradi huu na tu shauku ya kufanya kazi na wewe hadi mwisho wa uchaguzi. Tafadhali usisite kutupatia mrejesho au maoni juu ya kitu chochote kinachohusiana na mradi huu

Wako,

Dr. Ave Maria Semakafu

# Elections and Election Monitoring

Elections are the mechanism by which citizens select representatives who will govern on their behalf for the good of the entire society. The right to vote is a fundamental freedom enshrined in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (Article 21):

*(1) Everyone has the right to take part in the government of his country, directly or through freely chosen representatives.*

This right is also in the African Charter on Human and Peoples’ Rights (Article 13).

Election monitoring broadly serves two important functions:

1. to defend the rights of citizens to vote by placing trained, accredited non-partisan monitors at polling stations and polling streams;
2. to provide citizens with accurate, nationwide and non-partisan information on the conduct of an election so citizens can determine for themselves if the election met their expectation (i.e. that they were fully able to exercise their right to vote).

Election monitoring by non-partisan citizen groups is also a fundamental freedom. For example, the SADC Principles and Guidelines Governing Democratic Elections states that Member states have an obligation to:

*7.8 Ensure the transparency and integrity of the entire electoral process by facilitating the deployment of representatives of political parties and individual candidates at polling and counting stations and by accrediting national and/other observers/monitors;*

Similarly, the National Election Commission of Tanzania accredits election observers to monitor the electoral process.

# Chaguzi na Ufuatiliaji wa Uchaguzi

Chaguzi ni namna ambayo wananchi wanachagua wawakilishi wao watakao waongoza kwa niaba yao kwa mafanikio ya jamii kwa ujumla. Haki ya kupiga kura ni ya muhimu kwa kila mtu kama ilivyo ainishwa katika tamko la kidunia la Haki za Binadamu (Universal Declaration Of Human Rights Article 21) ambalo linasema;

*“kila mmoja anayo haki yay a kushiriki katika kuunda serikali ya nchi yake, iwe moja kwa moja au kupitia kuchguliwa kwa hiari kama muwakilishi”*

Haki hii pia inapatikana katika Tamko la Umoja wa Africa la Haki za Binadamu kifungu namba 13. Uangalizi wa chaguzi una malengo makuu mawili;

1. Kulinda haki za raia ili wapige kura kwa kuweka waangalizi waliothibitishwa, wasioshabikia upande wowote wa chama na waliopata mafunzo katika vituo vya kupigia kura.
2. Kuwapatia wananchi taarifa zenye usahihi na zisizo na upendeleo wa pande zozote juu ya namna zoezi la upigaji kura lilivyokuwa ili waweze kuona wao wenyewe kama kwa jinsi uchaguzi ulivyofanyika umeweza kufikia matakwa au malengo yao (Kama waliweza kutumia hako yao ya kupiga kura)

Uangalizi wa uchaguzi wa makundi yasiyofungamana na makundi yoyote ya kisiasa pia ni uhuru wa msingi wa kila mtu. Kwa mfano, SADC, Nchi wanachama wana jukumu la ;

7.8 *Kuhakikisha uwazi na uaminifu wa mchakato mzima wa uchaguzi kwa kuwezesha kupelekwa kwa wawakilishi wa vyama vya siasa na wa wagombea binafsi kwenye vituo vya kupigia na kuhesabia kura waangalizi kwa kuwathibitisha waangalizi wengine*

Vivyo hivyo, Tume ya Taifa ya Uchaguzi inasisitiza uwepo wa waangalizi wa mchakato mzima wa uchaguzi wakati wa uchaguzi kama mwaka huu.

# Violence Against Women in Elections (VAW-E)

Violence against women is used as a targeted and destructive tool in various ways throughout the electoral cycle to dissuade women from participating as ***election administrators, voters, and candidates***. This has critical implications for the integrity of the electoral process because when women are prevented from voting for their preferred candidates, executing their campaigns, or fulfilling their mandate, democratic processes are effectively nullified.

The definition of VAW-E combines violence against women (VAW) and electoral violence. The United Nations defines **VAW** as ANY ACT of gender-based violence that results in, or is likely to result in, physical, sexual or mental harm or suffering to women, including threats of such acts, coercion or arbitrary deprivation of liberty, whether occurring in public or in private life. **Electoral conflict and violence** can be defined as any random or organized act that seeks to determine, delay, or otherwise influence an electoral process through threat, verbal intimidation, hate speech, disinformation, physical assault, forced “protection,” blackmail, destruction of property or assassination.

Thus, **VAW-E** can be defined as any act of gender based election violence that is directed primarily at women as a result of their aspirations to seek political office, their link to political activities or simply their commitment to vote as well as any random or organized act that seeks to determine, delay, or otherwise influence an electoral process through threat, verbal intimidation, hate speech, disinformation, physical assault, forced ‘protection,’ blackmail, destruction of property, or assassination.

It is also important to recognize that non-gender motivated electoral violence can still have a disproportionately high impact on women because of their subordinate status in society and their increased vulnerability. For example, though men and women were both victims during Cote d’Ivoire’s 2010/11 post-election violence, research by the Organisation des Femmes Actives de Cote d’Ivoire (OFACI) revealed women were often the first victims of party reprisals because they could not escape as easily as men. Women were home caring for children and thus more likely to be present to be victimized; they also had more difficulty escaping quickly with their children.

**General Electoral Violence Versus VAW-E**

* Although men and women may be victims of electoral violence, like murder, harassment, and coercion, traditional definitions do not capture additional acts and threats perpetrated against female candidates, activists, voters and election workers as *women.*
* Gender norms shape *how* and *why* women are subject to electoral violence, as well as what types of acts are pursued to curtail or influence their participation.
* Unlike men, women can experience familial or social intimidation in the private sphere and violence and intimidation from members and leaders of their own political party. The goal of such violence may be directly aimed at upholding gender norms and traditional female roles.

**Factors that contribute to VAW-E**

Factors that contribute to VAW-E vary, but can include: opponents of women’s leadership, economic dependency, illiteracy, limited family support, lack of education (including lack of access), discriminatory social and cultural attitudes, culture of violence (particularly political violence), burden of responsibilities at home, lack of access to information, absence of supportive administrative and judicial structures including inadequate rule of law and governance institutions.

**What to Look for: Types of Violence Committed against Women in Elections**

VAW-E can occur in a variety of ways, by many different types of actors. Instances range from verbal harassment to intimidation and coercion to more physical forms such as sexual harassment, rape, abuse and murder. For the purposes of recording and assessing violence, NDI/GWD categorizes it into five main categories: *Physical, sexual, psychological, threats and coercion, and economic violence.*

The table below highlights the ways in which violence can occur in both public and private life as well as all levels of society to impact women’s ability to participate in elections as activists, voters, candidates and election officials.

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Types of Violence** | **Tends to Occur** | **Targets** | **Perpetrators** | **Aims** |
| Physical: Murder, assault | Grassroots level, home, societal and political level | Influential women leaders, women activists, women voters, candidates and election administrators | Opposition parties, own parties, extremist religious organizations, family members, community members | Win inter- and intra-party conflicts, maintain status quo for women’s role in society, satisfy patriarchal Insecurities |
| Sexual: Rape, sexual exploitation, harassment | Situations of political unrest, extreme polarization, high-stakes elections | Women activists, voters, candidates, election administrators | Security forces, warring forces, male politicians, husbands/family members | To deter political mobilization and participation, participation of women as election observers, organization of women, to force wives/daughters/sisters to vote for HOH preferred candidate   |
| Psychological: Slander, character attacks and defamation, harassment by the media, insults, equating women’s political participation with immoral practices (“sexual promiscuity”) | During nominations and election campaigns, pre-election, election period | Women candidates, young women activists, voters, election administrators  | Opposition parties, members of own parties, male power holders, family, media outlets | To deter women from being elected, to stop women leaders from active participation in election process, to satisfy jealousy, male ego and own weaknesses, to maintain and increase male-dominated power  |
| Threats and Coercion: Trauma, torture and harassment, ridicule and accusations by male politicians directed at women party members (same or different party), intimidation and pressure aimed influencing vote by family members | Police stations, councils, political parties,  organizations, committees, home, office | Women candidates, women party leaders, women voters, activists, and election administrators | Party members/leaders, police, colleagues, family members | Revenge, stop from contesting elections and joining political office, to deter or coerce women voting, belittle or deter women from participating in elections administration, deter women from expressing political viewpoint/priorities |
| Economic:Economic control, denial or delay in providing financial resources, property damage, denial of payment for campaign or electoral expenses | Political parties, home, communities; throughout electoral cycle | Women candidates, women voters, women activists, women election administrators | Own or opposition party members, party leaders, officials, family members. | Deter women’s participation by restricting or blocking their access to economic resources available to men, reduce women’s economic resources to prevent/ influence expression of their political viewpoints/priorities |

**Election Observation and VAW-E**

Election observers have the ability to render VAW-E visible so that in the short term it may be mitigated and in the long term solutions can be identified and in turn increase the electoral integrity and prospects for democratic elections. Violence against women should be considered in the design of the methodology, terms of references, observer forms/checklist and reports that are developed as part of an election observation.

# Completing the Checklist and Reporting

Pre-election Checklist (blue form)

* Please review the pre-election checklist thoroughly.
* Every day you are expected to observe at least two rallies in your assigned district/constituency and complete the pre-election checklist (blue form)
* Once you have completed the whole checklist, the next day, you should call the TWCP date center between 8 am to 10 am to report your daily observation finding. The number to the data center is **0689315286**, **0689315245** or **0689314258.**

Election Day Checklist (yellow form)

* Upon arrival you should complete Question 1. If the polling station did not open by 9 am, please call TWCP at **0689315286**, **0689315245** or **0689314258** immediately.
* During the setting up of the polling station you should answer Questions 2 to 15B.
* For observation of the voting process, please take note throughout the day, but only mark your answers after 4:00 pm at the end of voting or when the last voter who was in the queue at 4 pm cast their ballot.
* Once counting concludes, you should answer Questions 21 to 23B
* Once you have completed the whole checklist from 1 to 23B, you should call the TWCP date center at **0689315286**, **0689315245** or **0689314258**.

# Crucial Activities Timeline

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| --- | --- |
| **Timeline**  | **Activity**  |
| October 17 -18, 2015 | * Election Day training for Observers
 |
| October 19, 2015 | * Deployment of Observers to the Regions
 |
| October 20, 2015 | * Observers call in for arrival confirmation.
 |
| October 25, 2015 | * Observers monitor the Election Day process using the checklist provided by TWCP
* At the conclusion of the counting process, observers call TWCP data center to submit their findings
 |
| November 3 , 2015 | * TWCP collects observation checklist from observers and disburses observation stipend
 |

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| --- | --- |
| **Timeline**  | **Activity**  |
| October 17 -18, 2015 | * Siku ya mafunzo kwa waangalizi
 |
| October 19, 2015 | * Waangalizi wanasafiri kwenda mikoani kwa ajili ya uangalizi
 |
| October 20, 2015 | * Waangalizi wanapiga simu ofisini kutoa taarifa kwamba wamefika katika maeneo waliyopangiwa
 |
| October 25, 2015 | * waangalizi wanaangalia uchaguzi kwa kutumia dodoso walilopewa na TWCP.
* Pindi zoezi la uhesabuji kura litakapoisha, waangalizi wanatakiwa kupiga simu kitengo cha dat kuripoti data zao
 |
| November 3, 2015 | * TWCP inakusanya madodoso kutoka kwa waangalizi
 |

# Non Partisan Pledge KIAPO

KIAPO CHA UTENDAJI KAZI YA UANGALIZI BILA KUFUNGAMANA NA CHAMA CHOCHOTE

I………………………………………………………………………. (***ANDIKA MAJINA YAKO MATATU KWA UREFU)***

Nikiwa kama muangalizi wa TWCP kwa ajili ya uchaguzi mkuu wa mwaka 2015, naapa kwamba nitadumisha hali ya kutokuwa na upande wowote wakati wa kazi yangu ya uangalizi wakati wa kusimamia majukumu yangu ya uangalizi katika kipindi hiki cha uchaguzi.

Ninaapa kuchangia mchakato halisi wa uchaguzi wa kidemokrasia bila kujali kushindwa au kushinda huku nikiweka maoni yangu binafsi pembeni juu ya wagombea wowote wanao wania nafasi mbalimbali za uongozi.

Ninaapa pia kulilinda jina la TWCP na pia kulinda maadili ya shirika kwa kufuata sharia zote za uchaguzi na muongozo wa uchaguzi wa Tume Ya Uchaguzi kwa kipindi chote cha kazi yangu ya uangalizi.

Nitatoa ripoti isiyokuwa na upendeleo nay a usahihi juu ya matukio yote nitakayoyaona yakijitokeza kwa nafasi yangu kama muangalizi wa uchaguzi wa shirika la TWCP.

Nitajizuia kutoa kauli zozote za binafsi zina zohusiana na kazi yangu ya uangalizi kwa chombo chochote cha habari au kwa mtendaji yoyote wa umma kabla TCWP haijatoa taarifa, isipokuwa TWCP itakaponielekeza kufanya hivyo.

Ninaahidi kwamba nimesoma maelekezo haya kwa uangalifu mkubwa na nimeuelewa kwa ufasaha muongozo wa Tume ya Uchaguzi waangalizi na nakubali kuifuata.

I further vow to resign from my role as a TWCP observer if I should develop any conflicts of interest that would hinder me from fulfilling impartially, accurately and in a timely manner my non-partisan election observation activities.

Naahidi pia kuwajibika kwa kujiuzulu nafasi yangu ya muangalizi wa TWCP endapo nitagundulika kuyanya yale yote yaliyokatazwa katika kiapo hiki.

Ninaahidi kuyafanya haya kwa kadri ya uwezo wangu

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*(Sahihi yako) (Tarehe)*

# Annex 1: Definitions for Key Variables of VAW-E

This annex contains definitions for the core variables that should be included and measured when collecting data on violence against women in elections. These critical variables allow observations to identify incidents and trends of VAW-E more accurately during an election, by providing more exact details about each incident and better illustrating who was involved, what specific form of violence the incident took and what impact that violence had.

These definitions and examples should be used to train observers to become “experts” on recognizing VAW-E when it occurs in the communities they are observing. They should be included in training workshops for supervisors and observers alike, as well as in observer manuals for easy reference throughout the observation period. As referenced in the section on sample instruction language above, guidance for each question on the observation checklist(s) should include specific definitions for each variable observers will need to identify and know in order to fill out the checklist form correctly.

|  |
| --- |
| **Key Variables of VAW-E** |
| **Victim** | A person who is suffering from an act of violence, and who is harmed directly by the perpetrator. Examples of victims of violence against women in elections include women voters, candidates, activists, administrators, observers, or elected women; specific groups of possible victims should be listed and explained. |
| **Perpetrator** | A person who is committing any act of violence against another person or group of people. Perpetrators can be party members or leaders, politicians, family members, security forces, media outlets, or others; specific groups of possible perpetrators of violence should be listed and explained.  |
| **Impact** | The direct impact of violence varies depending on the type of violence being perpetrated, but its overall intent is to discourage, intimidate, or otherwise prevent women from exercising their right to participate fully and equally in an electoral process. |
| **Category of Violence** | Violence against women in elections can take many forms, and can be difficult to identify. There are five major categories of violence, found in Annex 2 below. Any violence-monitoring questions included on the checklist forms will connect to one of these categories of violence. Any of these types of violence can occur in the *public* or the *private* sphere:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| ***Public sphere*:** Violence in the public sphere is the most visible kind of violence. It refers to any violence that occurs in public life or through a platform open to a public audience. This includes public political activities like campaign events, debates or speeches/statements, published media such as printed newspapers or magazines, television or online news, social media such as Facebook or Twitter, or other spaces open to the public. | ***Private sphere*:** Violence in the private sphere is much more difficult to observe. It refers to any violence that occurs in closed or private spaces. This includes violence within the home or family, as well as violence that occurs within parties themselves, such as intimidation or harassment behind closed doors, private messages or calls. |

 |

**Annex 2: Definitions for Categories of VAW-E**

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| --- |
| This annex contains definitions for the categories of violence that are included and specifically tracked in any observation on violence against women in elections. These categories are carefully developed based on theory and best practice, in order to capture and present a full picture of VAW-E and the many forms it takes.  These definitions should be used to train observers to become “experts” on recognizing VAW-E when it occurs in the communities they are observing. They should be included in training workshops for supervisors and observers alike, as well as in observer manuals for easy reference throughout the observation period. As referenced in the section on sample instruction language above, guidance on the observation checklist(s) should include a specific definition for the category/ies of violence that observers will need to recognize in order to answer each question correctly. Where possible, best practice is to include examples of what each category of violence may look like in the context in which observers will be working, to ensure that observers are able to identify incidents of violence in each category.**Categories of Violence:** |
| **Physical** | Physical violence includes any violent act that results in bodily harm. It is the intentional use of physical force with the potential to cause physical harm. |
| *What we look for: murder, aggression* |
| **Sexual** | Sexual violence includes any sexual act or attempt to obtain a sexual act, unwanted sexual comments or advances, or attempts to sexually exploit a person by force or coercion.  |
| *What we look for: rape, sexual exploitation, harassment* |
| **Psychological** | Psychological violence includes any kind of pressure or discrimination that puts mental pressure or stress on a person, making them feel fearful, self-loathing, incapable, guilty, or helpless.  |
| *What we look for: defamation, slander, character attacks, harassment by media, insults equating women’s political participation with immoral practices, hate speech* |
| **Threats and Coercion** | Threats can be verbal or physical indications of the intent to cause harm or commit violence. Coercion is the practice of persuading or forcing a person to do something through the use of threats or violence. |
| *What we look for: threats, false accusations, intimidation, false assessment of the environment, blackmail, pressure* |
| **Economic** | Economic violence includes the systematic denial of resources to women for election activities, or restricting women’s access to resources that are available to men. |
| *What we look for: economic control of women, denial or delay in providing financial resources available to men, property damage committed against women candidates* |

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