

LTO Weekly Report (Afghanistan 2009)

LTO / Interpreter Names:	Regional Team:
Provinces and Cities covered in this report:	Electoral Districts covered:
Period covered:	Report Submission Date:

Please be concise and report only direct, verified observations.

1. Executive Summary

In bullet point form, highlight this week's most noteworthy events or issues.

2. Political Background

Describe the political environment in the areas visited. What are the political dynamics within and between the political parties/candidates? Are there any concerns about the selection of candidates? Are there women running for office in your region?

3. Election Administration

Assess the level of competence, independence and cooperation of the election authorities in each district visited. What is their state of preparedness for Election Day, and how well do they understand the legal provisions? What problems or issues have they identified?

4. Voter Registration

Despite the fact that the voter registration process has closed, did anyone you spoke with raise questions about the accuracy of the voter lists? How do they anticipate this could affect the outcome of the election? Have the voters been able to scrutinize the lists? Are candidates, political parties, and NGOs or observer groups able to access or obtain copies of the list? How many women registered to vote compared to men? Were there any identification or other registration requirements that may have hindered women's ability to register? Were voter registration centers accessible to all citizens and opened for an adequate period of time?

5. Voter education

Assess the coverage, scope, and tone of voter education in the areas visited. Who is conducting voter education and through what means? Do citizens appear to understand the electoral process? Do campaigns target marginalized groups, such as women, minorities and youth?

6. Campaign

Give an overview of the campaign activities taking place in the area visited. What types of campaigning have been conducted and what is the impact on the local electorate? Have there been any violations of fundamental freedoms or other obstacles to the campaign? Are female candidates in your area able to actively campaign? What is the reaction of the public to women's campaigning? Are women engaged in organizing or attending political events? Describe any overt efforts to suppress the role of women candidates or supporters in the campaign period.

7. Abuse of State Resources and Public Office

Describe any abuses of state resources or public office for partisan advantage in areas visited. Please indicate whether any allegations have been directly observed or verified by the team.

8. Election Complaints and Appeals

List any complaints or appeals lodged in the Region during the period covered, or updates on previously recorded cases. (Please also fill details in the Complaints Tracking Form.)

9. Media

Describe the general situation of the local print and electronic media in the areas visited. Are journalists free to report on election events without pressure and do candidates/political parties have equitable access to the media? Do women candidates have the same access to the media? Is the tone and amount of media coverage balanced among all participating candidates/political parties? Does the tone and/or amount of coverage differ for women candidates?

10. NGO Activities

What civil society groups are active in the areas visited and what election-related activities have they planned? Are there women's groups that are active? What are the public perceptions of these groups and their activities?

11. Under-represented/Marginalized Groups

Identify any under-represented or marginalized groups in the areas visited and whether they have any particular problems with participation in the election process. Describe any overt efforts to suppress the role of women in the election. What special efforts have the election authorities, political parties and civil society made to address these issues?

12. Political Violence

List any incidents of political violence in your Region. (Please also fill details in the Critical Incident Form.) Report on methods of intimidation of voters or candidates in your Region. Have incidents specific to women been reported? How have violent incidents effected how the candidates campaign and reach voters? What special efforts have security forces made to address these issues?

13. Mission Logistics

Report any issues or concerns about the team's logistics. Please include any suggestions for improving logistics ahead of the arrival of the Election Day delegation.

14. Security / Safety issues

Give an update on any developments in the security situation in your Region.

List of Contacts made:

Type (Gov't, Party, Media, NGO, etc)	Name/Position	Organization	Contact info