

Tools for transparency during elections



Key messages



- Voter education plays an important role in independent election monitoring that promotes transparency and accountability.
- Engaging all citizens despite age, location and occupation allows a space for greater civic participation.



We trained 49,000 party agents. This was the first time this kind of capacity building for political parties had been conducted.



Zambia Centre For Inter-Party Dialogue



ZAP is funded with UK aid from the UK government and implemented by the British Council

The context



Legitimising elections has been a challenge in the last few election cycles in Zambia. Held in August 2016, the most recent national election provided the chance to learn about the challenges of carrying out civic duties and the supply of relevant information on public policy and other political processes.



The response



Voter education and partner training support

Youth are often on the peripheral of the election process and yet they form the largest proportion of the population. The Supporting Zambian Civil Society Organisations Towards Credible Elections project carried out outreach programmes through trainings to encourage active engagement of the electorate in the elections. The use of new technologies and media ensured participation by the monitors and the public. Monitors were supported to travel to distant polling stations, a situation that always presented a problem in previous elections. The lead partner was the Electoral Institute of Sustainable Democracy in Africa (EISA), which awarded five downstream partners: the Foundation for Democratic Process (FODEP), the Southern African Centre for the Construction Resolution (SACCORD), Caritas, Transparency International Zambia (TIZ), and the Young African Leadership Initiative (YALI). The training provided a groundbreaking opportunity for political party agents to build their skills. They acknowledged that this was an opportunity that was previously out of their reach.

Party-poll capacity building programme

Party agents were trained in election monitoring. Many of the political parties lack finances to conduct trainings for their agents. The programme which was administered by the Netherlands Institute for Multi-party Democracy (NIMD) and the Zambia Centre for Inter-Party Dialogue (ZCID) equipped the political parties with the skills to monitor the elections effectively.

The parallel voter tabulation (PVT) and citizen monitoring programme

Recognised as the international standard methodology for assessing electoral processes and verifying election results, PVT is used globally by citizen monitoring organisations. CCMG partner organisations are faith-based organisations whose focus was to enhance election monitoring legitimacy through PVT and non-partisan citizen monitoring during the 2016 Zambia elections. Through CCMG, with support from NDI, over 1,500 PVT monitors were trained and deployed nationwide.

Voter manual

A voter manual for civic and vote education was developed for the common use of all partner organisations. The manual provided a standardised approach to citizen election monitoring.

The challenge



The large geographical programme areas

Effective implementation of the programme responses across the country presented challenges as some terrains were difficult to access.

The results



 **Approx. 1,750,000** reached with voter sensitisation messages



 **400** election candidates sensitised on election malpractices

Lessons learned



Better understanding of the nature of political parties

NIMD and ZCID discovered that political parties are different, particularly in terms of their governance set up. This affected the way that each party related to the programme and the way parties related to each other. Political parties had varying operational and technical capacities, which also had a direct result on the programme implementation.

Strengthening interaction between partners

Organisations had different capacity levels, so ZAP encouraged the more experienced ones to be the case study for the less experienced ones to learn from.



Bauleni school polling station