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

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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

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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

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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

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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 you 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

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Partnership Options

- One unified, **single organizaton**
- 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 chosing 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 coorindations

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