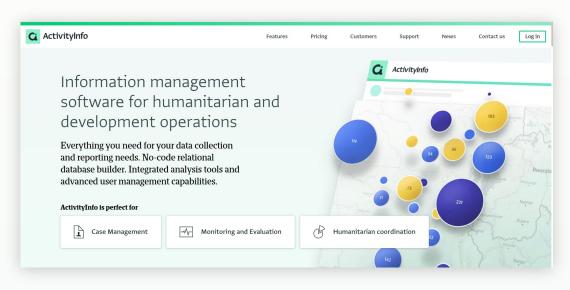# ActivityInfo

Data management for enhanced electoral support and citizen-led election observation

Starting shortly, Please wait!

Presented by the ActivityInfo Team

All in one information management software for humanitarian and development operations

○ Track activities, outcomes
○ Beneficiary management
○ Surveys
○ Work offline/online

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Outline

Poll

- What challenges do you foresee in effectively managing data in citizen-led election observation initiatives?
  - Data collection
  - Data analysis and reporting
  - Data utilization
  - Partner coordination
  - Cost of deploying technology
  - Lack of technical skills to deploy required technology
- Are you currently leveraging Information and Communication Technology for Development (ICT4D) for electoral support and observation efforts?
  - Yes, we are utilizing ICT4D tools such as ActivityInfo for data collection, analysis, and dissemination.
  - No, but we are interested in exploring ICT4D for future electoral support and observation efforts.
  - No, we do not currently use ICT4D for electoral support and observation efforts, and we do not plan to in the future.

Citizens led election observation

Understanding the role of Citizens led Electoral Observation

*"Independent, systematic and comprehensive evaluation of legal frameworks, institutions, processes and the political environment related to elections; impartial, accurate and timely analysis of findings; the characterization of the findings based on the highest ethical standards for impartiality and accuracy; the offering of appropriate recommendations for obtaining genuine democratic elections; and advocating for improvements in legal frameworks for elections, their implementation through electoral related administration and removal of impediments to full citizen participation in electoral and political processes." -*Declaration of Global Principles

- *Citizen electoral observation is essentially an activity carried out by non-governmental organisations (NGOs) or civil society organisations (CSOs)*

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The nature of electoral support

- ✓ Strengthening Civil Society Engagement
- ✓ Capacity Building and technical Assistance
- ✓ Financial Support
- ✓ Networking and Collaboration
- ✓ Advocacy and Awareness
- ✓ Legal and Regulatory Assistance
- ✓ International Standards Compliance

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Success of Citizens led Electoral Observation

"The most important force for elections with integrity is citizen pressure."–Kofi Annan, 2012

Case study	Indicators of success
Kenyan Presidential Election of August 9,2022.	The Elections Observation Group (ELOG), an independent observer group, stated that its projections for the election results were consistent with the official results announced by the Independent Electoral and Boundaries Commission (IEBC).
	ELOG received data from over 5,000 observers deployed across Kenya's constituencies, including 1,000 Parallel Vote Tabulation (PVT) observers. Their projections aligned with the IEBC's official results.
	Their efforts contributed to increased transparency and accountability, helping to build public confidence in the electoral process.

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ELOG

Methodologies of Citizens led Electoral Observation

Long-Term Observation
Parallel Vote Tabulation (PVT)
Quick Count: Similar to PVT
Citizen Reporting

it's important to note that these methodologies can be adapted and combined based on the specific context and objectives of the citizen-led election observation efforts.

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Citizens led election observation

Benefits

- Protection of Electoral Integrity
- Promotion of Accountability
- Advancement of Democratic Values
- Increased Public Stakeholder Knowledge
- Enhanced Transparency
- Counterbalancing Role
- Democratic Self-Reflection

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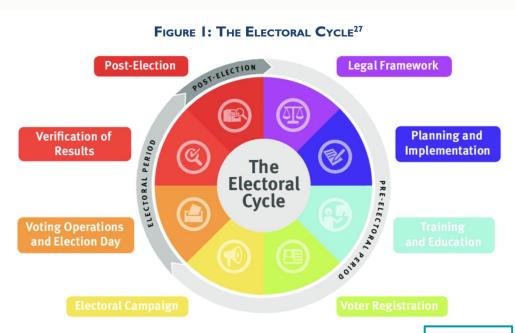# Citizens led election observation

Challenges

- Suspicions among stakeholders about the true purpose and value of CLO
- Inadequate funding and delays in accessing donor support
- Logistical challenges
- Political instability and insecurity
- Difficulty following up on recommendations
- External interferences
- Challenges in data management

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Data management in citizen led Election Observation

Data Management in the context of election observation

Data management is crucial in various aspects of election the electoral cycle.

FIGURE 1: THE ELECTORAL CYCLE[27]

Post-Election

Legal Framework

Verification of Results

Planning and Implementation

The Electoral Cycle

Voting Operations and Election Day

Training and Education

Electoral Campaign

Voter Registration

POST-ELECTION

ELECTORAL PERIOD

PRE-ELECTORAL PERIOD

Briscoe,2016

13

Data Management in the context of election observation

01

Data Collection

02

Data Recording

03

Data Verification

04

Data Analysis

05

Data Reporting

06

Data Security

07

Data Sharing/Visualizing

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Challenges in Data Management for elections monitoring and observation

01

Vast and Diverse Data: Collecting extensive datasets ranging from candidate information to real-time incidents poses integration, organization, and analysis obstacles.

02

Technological Limitations: Real-time reporting and analysis require advanced technological solutions and costly infrastructure, potentially hindering adoption.

03

Potential Bias: Careful consideration is needed regarding the potential for bias in data interpretation or reporting by observers.

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Importance of Information Management System (IMS)

IMS as a solution

An IMS is essential due to the wide scope of data collection requirements, including reference information on political parties and real-time reports on polling center activities.

1. Centralized Data Storage
    a. Seamless Organization
    b. Coordination and Accountability
    c. Efficiency and fostering the principles of Democracy

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Opportunities of Information Management System (IMS) in election observation

Streamline data collection at project onset

Managing partner coordination

Increase data coordination across M&E

Easy data sharing in standardized format

Facilitate longitudinal surveys

Move from static flex banners

To real-time visualization

Seamless report design for M&E/ election observation

Integration with statistical software like R-This can aid sampling for parallel vote tabulation methodology

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Leveraging ICT4D for effective electoral support and monitoring

Case Study: Background

Scenario

Ghana is gearing up for its national elections, and ensuring transparency and accountability in the electoral process is crucial for fostering public trust and confidence in the democratic process. To achieve this, a comprehensive electoral monitoring and observation system is being implemented.The electoral support initiative aims to promote democracy and transparency by implementing comprehensive projects that support electoral processes and engage various stakeholders.

Challenges (assumptions)

-The nature of data collected throughout the election cycle is vast and diverse, ranging from candidate information to real-time incidents. Organizing and analyzing such extensive datasets pose significant challenges.

-Real-time reporting and analysis are necessary for timely intervention in case of irregularities. However, advanced technological solutions and costly infrastructure can hinder the adoption of relevant solutions, slowing down the reporting process.

-There is a potential for bias in data interpretation or reporting by observers, which needs careful consideration to maintain the integrity of the electoral monitoring process.

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Case Study: Requirements

- **Data Collection:** Observers deployed across various polling stations use standardized forms to document their observations, including voter turnout, incidents of voter intimidation, irregularities in ballot counting, and adherence to electoral procedures.
- **Centralized Database:** The collected information is compiled and entered into a centralized database designed specifically for electoral observation. This also includes the M&E element of the electoral support for donor reporting.
- **Data Verification:** A team of data analysts cross-references the information entered into the database with reports from other observer teams to ensure consistency and accuracy across all observations. Any discrepancies or inconsistencies are flagged for further investigation.
- **Data Analysis:** The verified data undergoes analysis to identify patterns and trends indicating potential issues with the electoral process. This analysis helps in making informed decisions and recommendations for improving the integrity of future elections.
- **Reporting and Accountability:** The findings of the data analysis are compiled into a comprehensive report and shared with relevant stakeholders, including election officials, government authorities, civil society organizations, and international observers. This transparent sharing of observation data promotes accountability and transparency in the electoral process.

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Workflow

Pre election phase:
Capacity building and funding support to CSOs

Preparation Phase

- Election observers receive training, organize logistics, and are briefed on the political context and their roles.
- Observers arrive, receive local briefings, and are assigned to monitor polling stations and counting centers.

Deployment Phase

Election day phase

Observation Phase: Observers monitor voting processes, report incidents, collect data, and maintain communication with their teams.
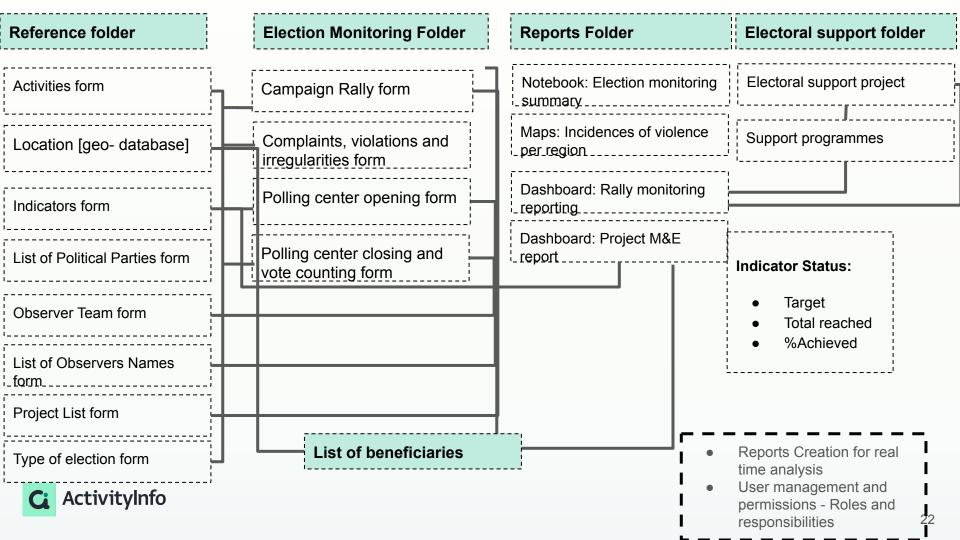
Election day phase

Analysis Phase: Collected data and reports are analyzed, incidents are verified, and preliminary statements may be issued.

Reporting Phase: A final report is prepared with observation findings, recommendations, and disseminated to stakeholders.

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Reference folder

Activities form

Location [geo- database]

Indicators form

List of Political Parties form

Observer Team form

List of Observers Names form

Project List form

Type of election form

Election Monitoring Folder

Campaign Rally form

Complaints, violations and irregularities form

Polling center opening form

Polling center closing and vote counting form

List of beneficiaries

Reports Folder

Notebook: Election monitoring summary

Maps: Incidences of violence per region

Dashboard: Rally monitoring reporting

Dashboard: Project M&E report

Electoral support folder

Electoral support project

Support programmes

Indicator Status:

- Target
- Total reached
- %Achieved

- Reports Creation for real time analysis
- User management and permissions - Roles and responsibilities

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Working with an ActivityInfo Database for election observation

Key considerations for Information management design

At program onset
- During MEAL plan design, identify the data sources that will be used for each indicator
- Develop in detail the tools used for the data collection of each indicator in order to have a complete idea of the fields included and avoid duplication of efforts
- A strong information management system for election observation reflects both the MEAL system in place and the project implementation process.
- Consider always the availability of resources, especially in contexts that there is a collaboration across multiple implementing partners.
- Prepare your data model prior to the use of any ICT4D tool and consider
  - Roles and responsibilities
  - Access to data and data sharing (who, how , what)
  - Field processes
  - Reports that you will need to process (how you will use information)
- Test the IM design with all relevant stakeholders - importance of participatory approach
- Create manuals for administrators and field staff/conduct trainings

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Key considerations for Information management design

During implementation
- Have dedicated focal point to manage the communication
- Adjust IM system as you go based on feedback - Context is dynamic and IM systems as well
- Monitor system usage and conduct frequent refreshers

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Questions?

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