



Activity brief (December 2013)

Support for Kenya Elections by Institute for Education in Democracy (IED)

30 November 2012 – 31 May 2013

Background: Kenya went to the ballot box on 4 March 2013. It was the first general election since the post-poll ethnic violence in 2007 and 2008, when a political, economic and humanitarian crisis quickly ensued. More than 1000 people were killed in the clashes and hundreds of thousands of people were displaced.

As part of the Australian Government's efforts to support electoral reform in Kenya, the AAPF supported the Institute for Education in Democracy (IED) to train Community Voter Educators ('Educators') in various Kenyan counties.

Objective: The activity aimed to promote and enhance the participation of marginalised groups in democratic and governance processes in Kenya. In particular, the project was aimed at contributing to the empowerment of youth, women and the illiterate in marginalised counties in upper eastern and north eastern parts of Kenya. The activity aimed to:

- promote the issuance and acquisition of national identity cards in the targeted regions;
- promote voter registration and turnout in the targeted regions;
- enhance awareness, knowledge and skills on the electoral processes among the marginalised communities;
- educate citizens in target regions to identify party and candidate symbols, to mark the ballot paper and vote without assistance or influence; and
- strengthen the capacity of community based organisations in the marginalised areas to provide civic/voter education.

Activity description: Two training teams conducted a three-day residential workshop for 50 participants in each of the five target northeastern counties.

One hundred and forty eight community volunteer educators were trained in mobilisation strategies to target minority groups, including facilitation methodologies and delivery techniques, elective positions, voting processes and procedures, how to mark a ballot paper and how to protect the secrecy of the ballot.

The Educators were deployed in the lead up to the March election from 28 January to 28 February, to complete two voter education sessions per week in their respective communities.

The activity funded the production of 50 000 posters that displayed the layout of polling stations and 50 000 'how to vote' cards, which Educators distributed on election day. The posters were culturally appropriate, gender sensitive and catered for an illiterate audience.

Outcomes: The activity successfully:

- created awareness in the targeted area to facilitate the acquisition of national identity cards (required to register to vote);

- produced information for education and communication, with an emphasis on gender-sensitive and relevant voter education materials; and
- recruited, trained and deployed Educators to conduct field activities in targeted areas.

Participant feedback: One of the educators, Fatuma, shared her positive experience of the program. She detailed her experience in a market where approximately 30 people were in attendance: "At first, I didn't think anyone would be interested because usually people expect educators to give them money for their time and to receive information so I wasn't so optimistic. However, they were so interested. I explained how to mark a ballot paper, the colours that the ballot papers would be and the six elective positions. They were so grateful for the information and said there should be more people like me. They asked me so many questions and asked me to repeat myself until they understood. Most people were interested to see the voting procedure poster, as they could understand it without any explanation and also the sample ballot papers. Actually, they asked me for all of the posters I had carried to take back to their families to explain."

Relevance to AAPF objectives: The activity promoted the relationship between Australian and Kenyan institutions and between the Institute for Education in Democracy, the identified target groups and relevant government institutions.

The activity also demonstrated Australia's commitment to supporting free and fair elections in Africa.

Activity number:	172/01
Date approved:	11/12/2012
Date amended:	11/02/2013
Date commenced:	30/11/2012
Date completed:	31/05/2013
Implementation partner:	Institute for Education in Democracy
Total cost:	AUD 343 470