THE ROLE OF CIVIL SOCIETY IN THE POST-ELECTION REFORM AGENDA

LESSONS FROM THE REGION
PRESENTED TO THE ZESN POST ELECTION CONFERENCE, BULAWAYO
BY
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MAPPING THE POST ELECTION REFORMS LANDSCAPE

• IMMEDIATE POST ELECTION
  • RESULTS DISPUTES & PETITIONS
  • POSSIBLE POST ELECTION VIOLENCE/POLITICAL TENSIONS
  • REPEAT ELECTIONS /BY-ELECTIONS
  • OBSERVER REPORTS/PUBLICATIONS
  • ENGAGEMENT OF THE MEDIA/STAKEHOLDERS ON FINDINGS
MAPPING THE POST ELECTION REFORMS LANDSCAPE

- MEDIUM & LONG TERM POST ELECTION LANDSCAPE
  - COOLING DOWN OF POLITICAL TEMPERATURES/REDUCED POLITICAL ACTIVITY
  - EMB EVALUATIONS/AUDITS
  - TARGETED STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENTS
  - DISINTEREST BY VOTERS/BACK TO NORMALCY (ARTIFICIAL)
  - POOR FUNDING OF ELECTION RELATED PROJECTS
GENERAL ROLE IN THE POST ELECTION

The Electoral Cycle

- Verification of Results
- Planning & Implementation
- Training & Education
- Voter Registration
- Electoral Campaign
- Voting Operations & Election Day
- Post-election
- Legal Framework

- Agenda setting
- Advocacy
- Education
- Observation
- Technical support
- Stakeholder engagement
- Stakeholder engagement
ROLE OF THE CSO IN THE POST ELECTION REFORM AGENDA

• CONSOLIDATION OF THE AGENDA
  • ELECTION REPORTS/EXPERT ANALYSIS
  • FORMULATION OF RECOMMENDATIONS/AGENDA SETTING
  • STRATEGY DEVELOPMENT

• INITIATING POST ELECTIONS DIALOGUE/ENGAGEMENT
  • JOINT PLATFORMS/THEMATIC APPROACH
  • WITH EMBS/PARLIAMENT/PPS/COMMISSIONS
  • SET UP OF A SPECIAL PURPOSES VEHICLE TO MIDWIFE THE REFORMS

• TRACKING REFORMS
  • ADVOCACY/EDUCATION CAMPAIGNS
  • PUBLIC INTEREST LITIGATION
## Assessing the Political Environment for Processing Reforms

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<th>Political Environment</th>
<th>Civil Society Options</th>
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<td><strong>Open Political Space, Political Will for Election Reform</strong></td>
<td>- Fully participate in reform debate;</td>
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<td>- proactively submit recommendations;</td>
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<td>- mobilize citizens in support of your priorities;</td>
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<td>- public opinion research.</td>
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<td><strong>Open Political Space, but No Political Will for Genuine Election Reform</strong></td>
<td>- Advocacy to get electoral reform on the policy agenda;</td>
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<td>- build public demand for reform through a media campaign and other outreach activities;</td>
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<td>- engage decision-makers; explain problems and how reform will solve them.</td>
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<td><strong>Closed Political Space – No Political Will</strong></td>
<td>- Advocacy to have an inclusive reform process;</td>
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<td>- parallel civic process – sample election law;</td>
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<td>- vigilant watchdogging;</td>
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<td>- engagement of the international community;</td>
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<td>- public opinion research.</td>
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CSO OPERATIONAL ENVIRONMENT IN THE POST ELECTION REFORM AGENDA

Duty bearers

Advocacy

CSO platform

Public awareness/feedback

Citizens
LESSONS FROM THE REGION - KENYA

• CSO ENGAGEMENT IN KENYA’S POST 2017 ELECTION ENVIRONMENT
  • EFFORTS ANCHORED IN A PRE-ELECTION LANDSCAPE WHERE 3 BROAD CSO FRAMEWORKS EMERGED;
    • MEDIATION & FACILITATIVE ORIENTED GROUPS – MAINLY INVOLVED IN MEDIATING POLITICAL TENSIONS
    • ADVOCACY & RIGHTS MONITORING GROUPS – TRACKED AND DEFENDED HUMAN RIGHTS & ELECTORAL JUSTICE ISSUES AND UNDERTOOK PUBLIC INTEREST LITIGATION.
    • ELECTION OBSERVATION & MONITORING GROUPS – INVOLVED IN OBSERVING THE ELECTORAL PROCESSES PROVIDING INFORMATION AND
LESSONS FROM THE REGION

• INVOLVEMENT OF CSO IN THE POST ELECTION REFORM AGENDA
  • MEDIATION PLATFORMS SUCH AS THE FAITH-BASED DIALOGUE REFERENCE GROUP SUPPORTED A POLITICAL SETTLEMENT TO ADDRESS POLITICAL TENSIONS
    • ‘HANDSHAKE MOMENT’
    • INITIATION OF DIALOGUE PROCESS/PROMOTION OF PEACE
  • ADVOCACY & OBSERVATION GROUPS CREATED A JOINT PLATFORM – THE TECHNICAL WORKING GROUP ON ELECTIONS (TWG) TO CONSOLIDATE THE REFORM AGENDA
    • SYMPOSIUM FOR ELECTION OBSERVERS HELD IN 2018
    • CONSOLIDATION OF ELECTION FINDINGS
    • REPORTS/PUBLICATION/POPULARIZATION OF THE ELECTORAL REFORMS AGENDA
    • SHARING OF RESOURCES FOR CONTINUOUS ENGAGEMENT
LESSONS FROM THE REGION

• THEMATIC APPROACH TO ADVANCING REFORMS
  • 8 THEMATIC AREAS IDENTIFIED; ELECTION MANAGEMENT, LEGAL FRAMEWORK, HUMAN RIGHTS, TECHNOLOGY, POLITICAL PARTY PROCESSES, INCLUSION OF SIGS, SECURITY & MEDIA

• PREPARATION OF THE NEXT ELECTION CYCLE
  • RESEARCH INTO NEW EMERGING ISSUES: ELECTION TECHNOLOGY
  • ELECTORAL CYCLE APPROACH TO ELECTORAL REFORMS

• OUTPUTS SO FAR
  • POINTS TAKEN: A CSO PROPOSAL SETTING THE ELECTORAL REFORM AGENDA PUBLICATION
  • EVALUATION CONFERENCES WITH IEBC RESULTING IN A REPORT BY THE EMB
  • TARGETTED STAKEHOLDER MEETINGS WITH PARLIAMENT, POLITICAL PARTIES, JUDICIARY TO DISCUSS THEMATIC PROPOSALS
  • SUSTAINED PUBLIC DEBATE ON ELECTORAL REFORMS
KEY LESSONS FOR ZIMBABWE

• CONSOLIDATE THE AGENDA
• CREATE JOINT CSO PLATFORMS FOR ENGAGEMENT
• SUPPORT TO PEACE BUILDING/POLITICAL SETTLEMENT TO DE-ESCALATE TENSIONS
• WORK WITH DUTY BEARERS INCLUDING POLITICAL PARTIES
• KEEP AGENDA ALIVE/PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT
  • TRACKING THE REFORM PROCESS
  • ACTIVE ADVOCACY CAMPAIGNS
  • SUSTAINED MEDIA CAMPAIGN
  • RESEARCH & DOCUMENTATION
  • BUILD CAPACITY/TRAINING
  • JOINT IMPLEMENTATION OF ACTIVITIES/POOLING FUNDS
SIYABONGA