The Results of an Independent Audit of the Current Voter Registration List in Cambodia

Phnom Penh, September 6, 2007

Supported by:
Presentation Outline

• Audit Methodology

• Results:
  – The level of registration and the accuracy of the voters list,
  – Registration awareness;
  – Others

• Recommendations
Voter Registration Audit Methodology
What is the Purpose of VRA?

• To provide an independent election observation report
• To verify the accuracy of voters list
• To evaluate the quality of voter registration process
Methodology

• 380 communes randomly selected – multistage stratified random sampling, with ± 3.5% of margin errors and 95% level of confidence.

• VRA conducted with two-way audit:
  a. List-to-people – selected 4 names on the voter list and then interviewed them to verify their data in each commune
  b. People-to-list – selected and interviewed 6 voters and then verified their data on the voter list in each commune
Data Collection

- NICFEC and COMFREL deployed 385 volunteers on August 10-14, 2007
- Total sample received from communes: 380 communes (98.7% of target sample communes) from 24 provinces/municipalities
- Number of respondents: 3,796 voters (98.6% of target sample)
- The voters list audited is the 2006 voters list (the list used in the 2007 commune council elections)
Report received by Provinces

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>No</th>
<th>Provinces</th>
<th>Sample communes</th>
<th>No</th>
<th>Provinces</th>
<th>Sample communes</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Banteay Meanchey</td>
<td>19 (100%)</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>Preah Vihear</td>
<td>3 (96.1%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Battambang</td>
<td>25 (96.1%)</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>Prey Veng</td>
<td>33 (96.1%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Kampong Cham</td>
<td>53 (100%)</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>Pursat</td>
<td>11 (100%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Kampong Chhnang</td>
<td>12 (96.1%)</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>Ratanak Kiri</td>
<td>3 (100%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Kampong Speu</td>
<td>21 (100%)</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>Siem Reap</td>
<td>20 (96.1%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Kampong Thom</td>
<td>18 (100%)</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>Sihanouk Ville</td>
<td>5 (100%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Kampot</td>
<td>17 (100%)</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>Stung Treng</td>
<td>2 (100%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>Kandal</td>
<td>38 (100%)</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>Svay Rieng</td>
<td>17 (100%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>Kong Kong</td>
<td>4 (100%)</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>Takeo</td>
<td>27 (100%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>Kratie</td>
<td>8 (100%)</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>Oddar Meanchey</td>
<td>4 (100%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>Mondul Kiri</td>
<td>1 (100%)</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>Krong Kep</td>
<td>1 (100%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>Phnom Penh</td>
<td>36 (100%)</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>Krong Pailin</td>
<td>2 (100%)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Urban = 12.1 ; Rural = 87.9

Total = 380
Audit Result:
The level of registration and the accuracy of the voters list
Voter Registration Rate

Registered Voters 88.8%

Unregistered Voters 11.2%

N = 2,278; People-to-List (verifying information from eligible voters to the voters list)
Voter Registration Rate by Age

- <19 years: 76.6% Registered, 23.4% Unregistered
- 20-45 years: 88.6% Registered, 11.4% Unregistered
- >45 years: 90.7% Registered, 9.3% Unregistered
Voter Registration Rate by Gender

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Gender</th>
<th>Registered</th>
<th>Unregistered</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Male</td>
<td>87.1%</td>
<td>12.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Female</td>
<td>90.6%</td>
<td>9.4%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

N = 2,278; People to List respondents
Comparison of Voter Registration Rate in Urban and Rural Areas

- Urban: 85.10% Registered, 14.90% Unregistered
- Rural: 89.30% Registered, 10.70% Unregistered
Unregistered Voters by Gender

- Male: 60.2%
- Female: 39.8%

N = 256
Registration Rate within Specific Respondent Category

- Died: 56.3% Registered, 43.7% Unregistered (N = 23, 1%)
- Disable: 83.0% Registered, 17.0% Unregistered (N = 147, 6.5%)
- Recently Moved: 56.3% Registered, 43.7% Unregistered (N = 142, 6.2%)
- Young voters (<19 years): 79.6% Registered, 20.4% Unregistered (N = 113, 5%)

People to List respondents, 2,278 respondents

Legend: 
- Light blue: Registered
- Pink: Unregistered
Awareness among Registered Voters

"Have you been registered for the upcoming 2008 election" (n = 1,174; List-to-People)
Results of Verifying Names on the Voter List

- Confirmed Registered voters: 77.3%
- Dead voters: 1.0%
- Invalid Records: 9.2%
- Others: 2.0%
- Registered Voters that may have relocated: 10.5%

N = 1,518; List-to-People respondents
Accuracy of the Voters List

N = 3,452; All respondents
No data includes unregistered voters, relocated voters, etc.
The Accuracy of the Voters List in Urban vs Rural Areas

- Name Urban: 85.80% Match, 4.70% Do not match, 9.60% No data
- Name Rural: 86.30% Match, 7.90% Do not match, 5.80% No data
- Address Urban: 82.50% Match, 7.20% Do not match, 10.30% No data
- Address Rural: 88.90% Match, 4.50% Do not match, 6.60% No data
Are you planning to reside at this address permanently until the 2008 election?
N = 3,417; All respondents

- Voter is planning to reside at the same address until the 2008 election: 97.2%
- Undecided: 2.3%
- Voter is planning to move to another address before the 2008 election: 0.4%
Intention to Register or Verify Name on Voters List

Voter does not intend to register or verify list: 2.3%
Undecided: 2.5%
Voter intends to register or verify list: 95.2%

Will you check your registration status or register during the registration period? N = 3,417; All respondents
Motivation of Voter to Check Name on Voters List

If you are going to check your name on the voters list, why?
N = 3,253; All respondents that said they are going to check

- It is my right: 40.9%
- So I can vote in the election: 43.4%
- I was suggested or encouraged to register: 1.4%
- I was forced to register: 0.8%
- Because everybody else was registered: 6.1%
- Others: 3.4%
- So I can support my party: 4.1%
Reasons for Not Checking Voters
List
• Does not have identification documents for registration
• The distance to the registration station is too far
• The registration period is too short
• Does not know about the registration
• Does not care, etc.
Which identification document did you use to register for the voters list?
N = 3,354; All respondents
Other valid documents includes: passport, civil servant ID card, national police ID card, RCAF ID Card, form 1018, ID used by ministry
Identification Document Used Against Respondent Age

Other valid documents includes: passport, civil servant ID card, national police ID card, RCAF ID Card, form 1018, ID used by ministry
What is your main source information about voter registration?

N = 3,429; All respondents

- Village Chief: 43.8%
- Printed Media: 7.2%
- Electronic Media: 34.9%
- Voter registration officer: 4.1%
- From someone else: 1.3%
- Political Party/Campaign Team: 0.9%
- NGO: 1.4%
- Others: 1.3%
- Banner, posters, & stickers: 5.0%
Recommendations for NEC

1. Continue with registration update plans and prioritize enumerating unregistered voters. Pay special attention to specific groups such as male voters, young voters, and relocated voters.

2. Better to err on the side of caution and refrain from deleting voters who reside outside their commune and may or may not be registered in a new location.

3. For the deletion of names, reverse the burden of proof to rest with NEC and not the voter. In other words, accept only concrete evidence as proof of invalidity prior to deletion rather than delete if voter does not check. For example: deceased voters should only be deleted with proof of death certificate.

4. Use the 2007 commune council election polling stations records to cross-check the deletion list.

5. Make registration procedures easier to understand and easier to fulfill. For example: reduce requirements for completion of 1018 form.

6. Increase effectiveness of voter education programs by using electronic media.
Recommendation to Government


2. Prioritize the first time voters to get their National ID cards

3. Cooperate and assist NEC to ensure the neutrality of the village chiefs
Recommendations to Political Parties, Civil Society, Media, and the International Community

1. Encourage voters to check their registration status or register themselves starting on September 15 – October 20, 2007.

2. Monitor the registration updating process and pay particular attention to relocated voters, deceased voters, and unregistered voters.

3. Use electronic media for effective dissemination of information on voter registration.

4. International community is encouraged to support financially and technically.
Thank you

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