



Electoral Risk Management: *A Three Layered Approach to Prevention & Mitigation*

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DEFINITIONS

Risk management refers to the practice of identifying potential risks in advance, analyzing them and taking precautionary steps to reduce/curb the risk.

Prevention : The action of stopping something from happening or arising

Mitigation: The action of reducing the severity, seriousness, or painfulness of something



DEFINITION

International IDEA defines “*Electoral Risk Management*” as follows:

Electoral risk management entails a **systematic effort** undertaken to **improve knowledge** about risk factors that could affect the credibility and integrity of electoral processes and **develop the situational awareness** needed to initiate **timely and well informed prevention and mitigation actions**.

Three layered approach

Electoral management and justice

Specific measures which relate to electoral planning, implementation, coordination and dispute resolution that can be undertaken to avoid controversies and technical flaws

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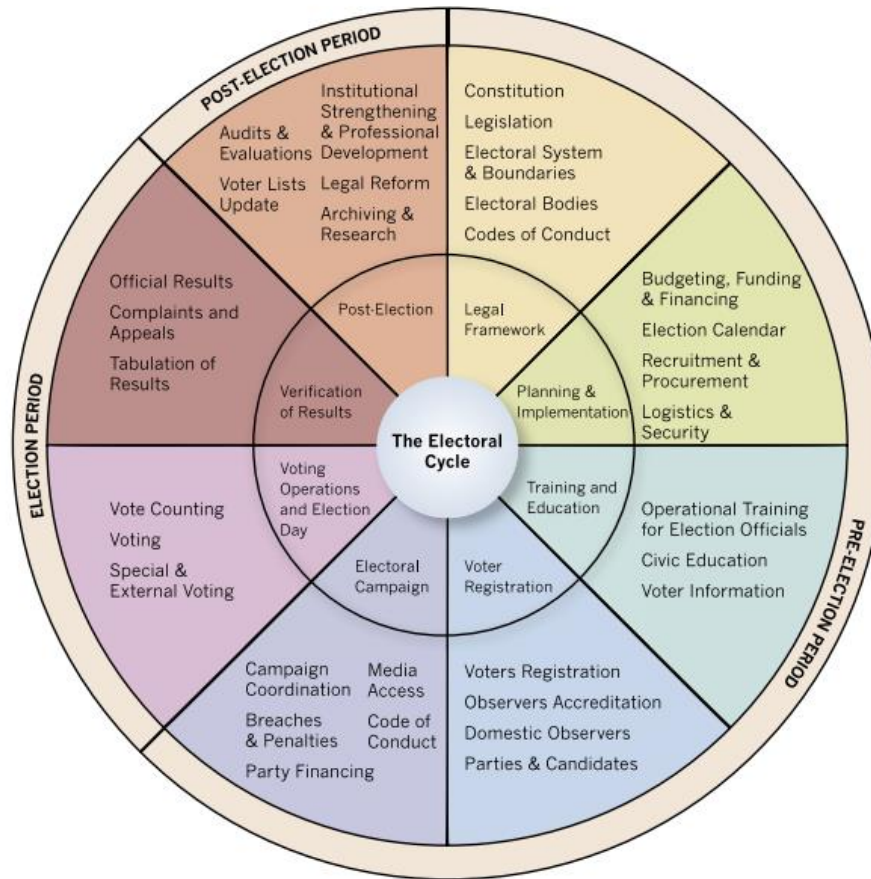
Electoral security

Specific electoral security measures that can be undertaken by SSAs throughout the electoral cycle to protect electoral actors, events, facilities and materials from violence.

Infrastructures for peace

Different activities that can be implemented by state or non-state actors to mobilize and coordinate government agencies, civil society organizations (CSOs), traditional and religious leaders, reputable individuals and other organizations and individuals with capacity to contribute in defusing and mitigating election-related tensions.

Three layered approach



A three-layered approach can be consistently applied throughout the different phases of the electoral cycle in such a way that actors from the three layers will cooperate closely to reinforce each other

Risk Analysis

Any EMB that implements an Risk Management framework is uniquely placed to address electoral risks regardless of the nature of the risk. Once an EMB identifies a risk, there are several steps to consider before determining a response for action:

- 1) Determine the risk holder.
- 2) Identify the stakeholders affected by the risk.
- 3) Determine the potential gravity of the risk (what impact would the risk have, how likely is it to occur and the various scenarios or consequences should the risk occur).

Action

- 1) Determine the stakeholders or actors that can play a positive role in addressing the risk.
- 2) Develop and implement control measures to prevent or mitigate the risk.
- 3) Continuous and systematic monitoring of the risk to assess whether the control measures are effective in decreasing the risk level.
- 4) If the risk does occur, implement additional measures that could reduce the severity of the risk.
- 5) Record and archive the impact of any control measures for future electoral events.

Types of action

Most prevention and mitigation measures require a common sense approach that involves being proactive rather than responsive in a timely manner.

- Concrete measures to eliminate or reduce the risk.
- Effective and regular communication with all stakeholders to build trust.
- Effective coordination with all stakeholders.
- Effective planning and contingency planning.
- Application of existing laws and regulations.
- Comprehensive post-election evaluation to determine the effectiveness of the risk management strategy with a view to implementing improvements before future electoral events.

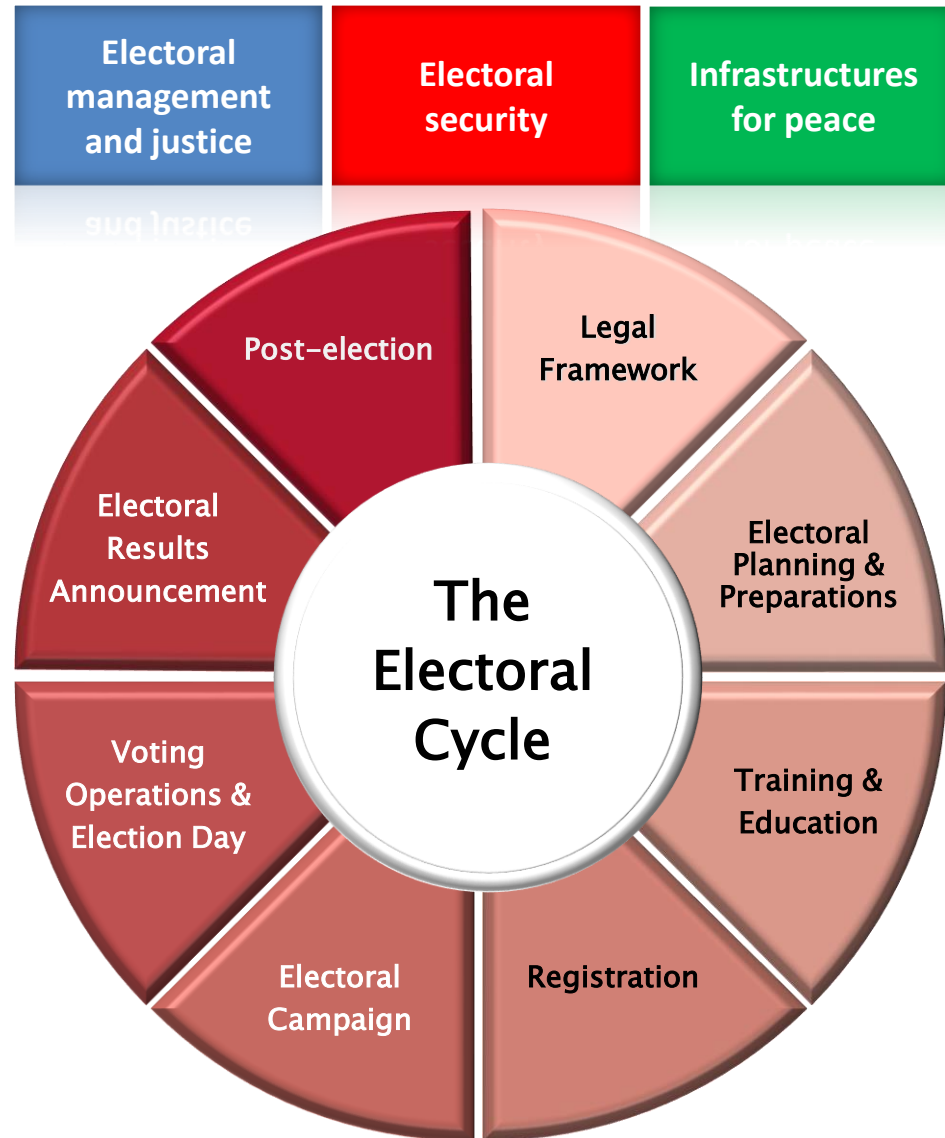


A guide with 100 comparative action points

Three layers of action

Throughout 8 phases of electoral cycle

Integrated risk and action register



Example ERMTool

A. Improved electoral management and justice	B. Improved electoral security	C. Improved infrastructure for peace
<p>1.1 Advise political stakeholders about an appropriate electoral system that takes into consideration the advantages and disadvantages of different design options.</p> <p>1.2 Advise adoption of a legal framework which will allow for the establishment of credible EMBs.</p> <p>1.3 Establish trusted and efficient frameworks for electoral dispute resolution and introduce mechanisms to sanction perpetrators of electoral offences.</p> <p>1.4 Design legal provisions which facilitate credible processes for the registration of voters, political parties and candidates.</p> <p>1.5 Introduce regulations that define the roles and responsibilities of political parties in the electoral processes.</p> <p>1.6 Define collaborative mechanisms and information exchange with security sector and other relevant agencies and citizens' groups.</p>	<p>1.7 Advise adoption of a legal framework that assigns clear electoral security responsibilities to different security sector and government agencies.</p> <p>1.8 Define rules of engagement for security sector agencies during elections.</p> <p>1.9 Define sanctions and enforcement mechanisms against perpetrators of electoral fraud and violence.</p> <p>1.10 Formalize collaborative mechanisms for coordination and information exchange with electoral management bodies, other relevant agencies and political parties.</p>	<p>1.11 Mobilize and involve non-state actors in discussions on the electoral framework in order to achieve citizens' participation and national consensus.</p> <p>1.12 Promote understanding of the role of non-state actors in contributing to peaceful elections, and advocate for the integration of alternative conflict resolution mechanisms into the electoral legal framework.</p>



Thank You