

ANNUAL
REPORT

The logo features the year '2020' in a large, dark blue, sans-serif font. A stylized globe, rendered in a gradient of gold and red, is positioned behind the second zero. The globe is tilted and has a thin white line around its equator. The letters 'EISA' are written in a white, bold, sans-serif font, centered over the second zero of the '2020'.

Electoral Institute for Sustainable Democracy in Africa



VISION

An African continent where democratic governance, human rights and citizen participation are upheld in a peaceful environment.

MISSION

EISA strives for excellence in the promotion of credible elections, citizen participation, and the strengthening of political institutions for sustainable democracy in Africa.



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BOARD MEMBERS



Dr Roukaya Kasenally

Chairperson



Dr Tadjouline Ali-Diabacte



Ms Charlotte Osei



Ms Martha Chizuma



Professor Tom Lodge



Professor John Stremlau



Mr Denis Kadima

Executive Director



Ms Ilona Tip

Operations Director



CHAIRPERSON'S MESSAGE

DR ROUKAYA KASENALLY

2020 saw 15 countries across the continent conducting presidential and parliamentary elections (excluding senate and local council elections) as well as two referenda being held. Two countries saw new presidential candidates assuming office. Seychelles, through the ballot box, saw its first opposition victory in 44 years and Malawi, through a constitutional court ruling following a challenge to the 2019 elections, a presidential re-run in June 2020. The opposition candidate Lazarus Chakwera, replaced President Peter Mutharika as president.

Aside from Burundi, Cameroon and Comoros where elections took place prior to the identification of Covid-19 as a pandemic, these elections took place in a Covid-19 pandemic environment - a pandemic that has rocked the world and not spared Africa. To varying degrees the electoral authority in the countries that held elections instituted Covid-19 restrictions and put protocols in place to protect voters. The African Union and some of the Regional Economic Communities, as well as electoral authorities, drafted guidelines for conducting elections during a pandemic.

Key considerations underpinning responses to Covid-19 included safeguarding normative political rights such as holding regular free and fair elections, guaranteeing freedom of speech and movement for political actors and citizens within the confines of necessary Covid-19 precautions. Equally important was the promotion of public health during voter registration, campaigning and voting as well as maintaining the integrity and legitimacy of elections and their outcomes. In fact, ensuring that the integrity of the process is not eroded was deemed crucial so as to avoid endangering the principles of inclusivity, equality and accountability of the electoral process.

As an organisation working in the democratic, governance and electoral space, EISA has had to be mindful of developments in the use of digital technology in elections and its use in different aspects and stages of elections. Technology is increasingly being used by

Election Management Bodies be it in the registration of voters, voting, counting and tabulation, observation and monitoring of groups, political parties and citizens. The use of technology can contribute positively to the democratic space but at the same time social media and the internet can be misused / manipulated through the propagation of fake news, hate speech and misinformation. In fact, we have witnessed on a number of occasions the negativity unleashed by irresponsible use of technology.

Another problem is the uneven presence of technology on the continent. Limited access to technology by many communities in a number of countries means that certain citizens may be excluded from full participation in expressing their voice and in making an informed choice when electing their representatives. While digital information offers new opportunities for engagement in the political space, it can, and has been, abused by authorities through the shutting down of the internet and social media. We have also witnessed in a number of countries the passing of punitive legislation that can criminalise speech and often this has a chilling effect on freedom of expression.

Election observers, local and international, have also had to rethink their approach in regard to the assessment to ensure that they remain relevant and strengthen the field of election observation. EISA is engaging on a profound reflection to situate better the role and responsibility of

electoral observation and how the latter can strengthen democratic consolidation.

While the changing environment presents challenges for the Institute, it also provides opportunities to identify new approaches and methodologies and deepen its commitment to ensuring that it meets its responsibility and remains an institution responsive to the needs of its partners. EISA, through its Executive Director and dedicated, hard-working staff has continued to strive for a continent that reflects EISA's vision of "an African continent where democratic governance, human rights and citizen participation are upheld in a peaceful environment".

EISA would like to thank our partners with whom we work for the good working relationship that has enabled the Institute to demonstrate the value these relationships have in enabling EISA to make a contribution to peace and stability on the continent.

The EISA Board has played a pivotal role in supporting the Executive Director and staff and I would like to thank them for their time, guidance and dedication.

EISA extends its sincere appreciation to the donor community for their continued trust in enabling EISA to fulfil its vision and mission.



MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

DENIS KADIMA

2020 was a challenging year globally with the onset of the Covid-19 pandemic which required EISA to adapt its working conditions, relook its strategic plan for the year and align its planned activities to the changing environment. Supported by the EISA Board of Directors and a team of dedicated staff who displayed great commitment to their work EISA was able to continue to meet its commitments. EISA expresses its appreciation to our pan-African, sub-regional and national partners and donors for their support, especially under such uncertain conditions.

Despite these challenges EISA opened a regional office in in Cote d'Ivoire and four new field offices in 2020, two offices were opened in Niger to support the establishment of a network of five civil society organisations to deploy election observers and providing support to the Electoral Commission (CENI) and media regulator, the Conseil Supérieur de la Communication (CSC) respectively. In Central African Republic EISA supported civil society observation networks and in Cote d'Ivoire a joint EISA/The Carter Center, international observation mission was deployed. EISA also supported civil society and religious networks working in the field of elections in Burundi and Tanzania and commenced with a new programme to support the electoral process in Somalia, working with two local partners and supporting a civil society network in Somaliland in preparation for the 2020 elections. EISA continued its support to the Economic Community for Central African States (ECCAS), strengthening their election observation processes. EISA's Africa Democracy Support Programme (ADS), its Enhancing the Legitimacy, Integrity and Transparency of Elections (ELITE) Programme and its continental Supporting Transitions and Electoral Process (STEP) continued EISA's Africa-wide imprint.



The challenges presented by COVID has required organisations working in the election space to relook and interrogate its approach and methodologies and find creative ways to ensure that our vision and mission were met. New ways of engaging with electoral stakeholders provided an opportunity to go beyond “business as usual” that EISA will engage in with the partners and networks going into 2021.

Within this environment EISA achievements are illustrated in this annual report in keeping with EISA's strategic goals, with selected highlights indicated below.

Strategic Goal

01

Elections, through democratic processes entrenched, transparent, peaceful and well-managed

Under this goal EISA conducted nine virtual Pre-Assessment Missions due to Covid-19 restrictions and five on-site following the lifting of restrictions in some countries. EISA was also able to provide technical assistance to seven African Union Election Observation missions as well as support six Regional Economic Community Election Observation Missions. The use of the EISA Popola system continued to enable these EOMs to provide up to date data gathered from their observers in the field in real time.

EISA's support to the CENI and CSC in Niger added value to both these institutions in delivering on their respective mandates. In its support to the Zimbabwe Electoral Commission (ZEC), through its Memorandum of Understanding between EISA and the ZEC, EISA supported a workshop with the media and ZEC on election reporting. Hosted by the ZEC, this workshop provided an opportunity to increase the media's understanding of the delimitation process and by-election procedures and enabled the ZEC and media to engage in discussion and gain a clearer understanding of the responsibilities of the ZEC and the media in election reporting

At the national level, EISA, through its newly opened field offices, EISA supported citizen election observers providing skills and knowledge in recruiting, training and deploying long and short-term observers as well as added skills in preparing election reports and conducting media briefings. In addition, in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Niger and Mozambique, EISA worked with partners in building their capacity to engage with the relevant electoral stakeholders in post electoral reforms based on the recommendations highlighted in their respective election observations. EISA's Balloting and Electoral Services (BES) conducted a variety of elections for boards of trustees, community organisations, political parties and trade unions in South Africa, making use of its suite of technology services in response to the COVID pandemic.

Strategic Goal

02

Citizens, in particular women, youth and marginalised groups, participate in democratic processes

Through its support of Strategic Goal 2, using the EISA Popola system EISA support civil society religious leaders and civil society organisations to shift from manual collection of data to technology, enabling them to collect, collate and interpret data in real time. These organisations deployed peace monitors in the run up, during and after the 2020 October elections, making a contribution to a conducive election environment to enable citizens to cast their votes for the candidates of their choice and monitor and respond to post-election conflict.

In Madagascar, citizens and elected leaders were given a platform through EISA's Social Dialogues where common interests and concerns are tabled and solutions jointly sought. In 2020 a review meeting was held with stakeholders who took part in the 2019 Atsimo Atsinanana regional social dialogue meeting with stakeholders reporting on progress and planning the follow up. The review meeting allowed for a report back on the issue and planning for those issues that needed further time and input.

The EISA Mozambique office responded to the COVID pandemic challenges by creating three social networks (Facebook, Twitter and YouTube) to publish content on a range of topics including analysis of various scenarios for dealing with the pandemic. A series of policy briefs were also published and available on the EISA website <https://www.eisa.org/moz2020covid.php> and <https://www.eisa.org/pubMoz.php>.

EISA's work in Somalia has continued to educate and engage citizens about the planned 2020/2021 elections. Through the "Let's talk elections" series, 19 events were held, largely broadcast on national and private media. The EISA Somalia office also focussed on increasing women's confidence to participate in the forthcoming elections through workshops and inclusion in debates, workshops and dialogue sessions.

Strategic Goal

03

Political institutions and processes are democratic and function effectively

Under its programme focussing on equitable gender participation in political parties, GIPPS held an online internal review meeting for an internal lesson learning to further fine-tune the EISA gender audit methodology, following which EISA met with one of the political parties in Botswana using the updated audit. EISA will continue to engage with other political parties in regard to the audit tool going into 2021.

In Mozambique EISA developed a series of interventions to strengthen women's qualitative participation in Parliament, including a user guide to enable women MPs to engage proactively in parliamentary debates towards protecting and promoting women's rights. As part of EISA's support to women MPs and parliamentary staff,

EISA continued its support to elected representatives, particularly supporting women representatives, particularly on drafting laws.

Strategic Goal

04

EISA is a stronger and more influential organisation

Despite the COVID restrictions EISA continued to participate in and contribute to partnerships and participation in global networks and global events with EISA staff presenting papers at 10 virtual and on-site conferences and workshops, as well as attending global events on democracy, governance and election related events

EISA staff were invited to give comment and analysis on radio and television on elections held in African countries over 2020 and more localized in the countries in which EISA works. EISA published two editions of the Journal of African Elections, the only accredited African journal on elections. See <https://www.eisa.org.za/jae.php>.

EISA's publications are highlighted on page 26 including policy briefs, election observation reports and training manuals that were produced.

EISA OFFICES

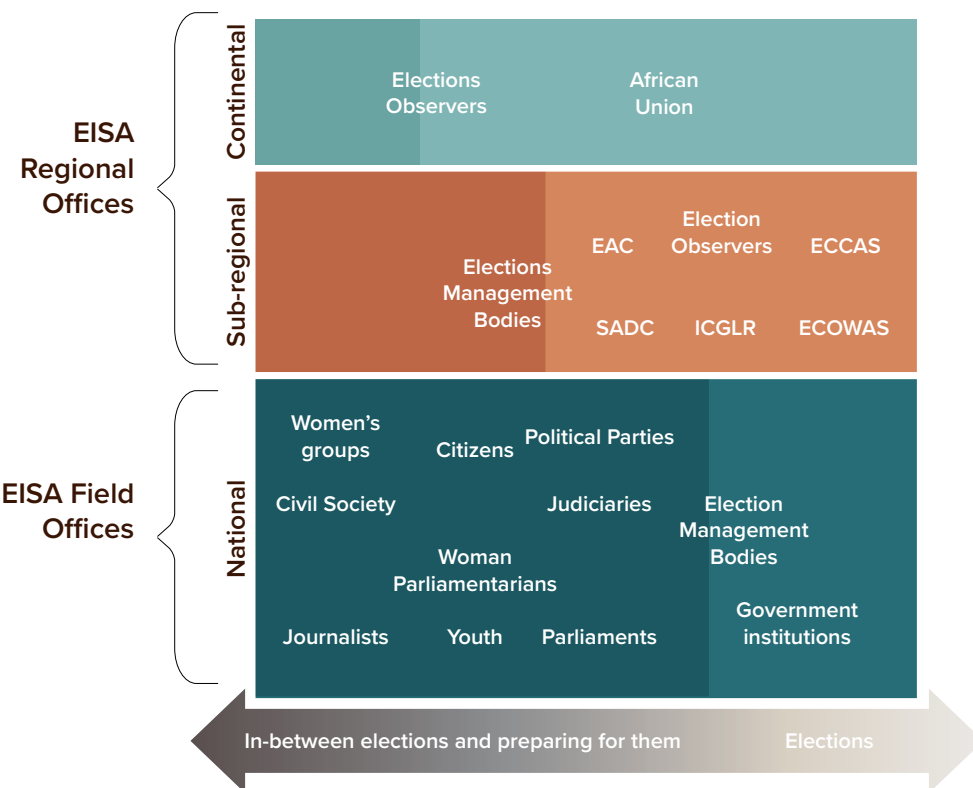


HOW EISA WORKS

Leveraging our position as an African institution and using the electoral cycle as an anchor to guide our interventions, EISA aims to strengthen democratic capacity in the three election phases, and in the “between election” stage.

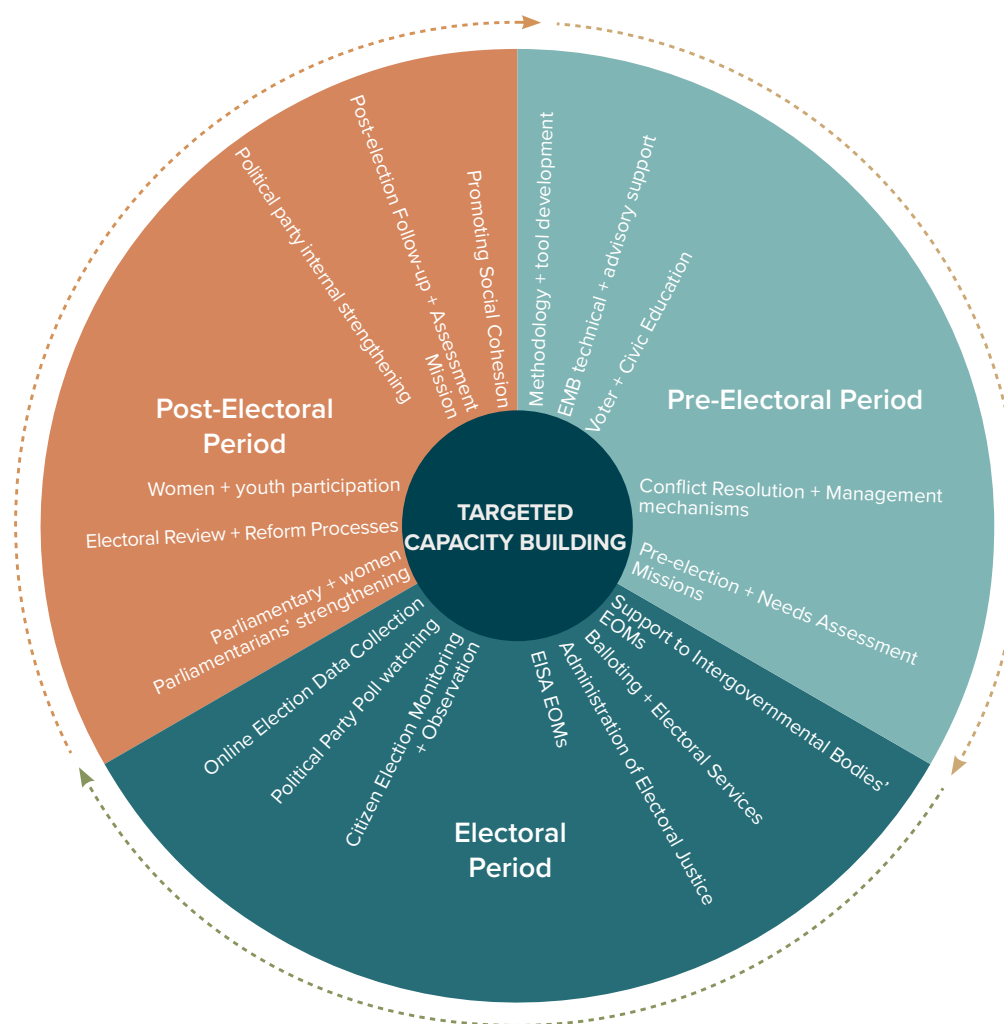
EISA works across Africa, in selected countries, and with selected institutions and bodies. At the continental level, EISA is a technical partner to the African Union (AU) in its electoral assistance support, and assessment missions to member states.

Similarly, at the sub-regional level, EISA provides technical support to Regional Economic Communities (RECs) to execute their electoral assistance and assessment mandates in their respective member states. These are the East African Community (EAC), the Economic Community of Central African States (ECCAS), the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), the International Conference of the Great Lakes Region (ICGLR) and the Southern African Development Community (SADC). The technical assistance provided is tailored to each REC’s specific objectives, needs, and ways of engaging in member states.



At the national level, EISA works with different national electoral stakeholders such as Electoral Management Bodies, civil society organisations, national parliaments or assemblies and political parties. Country-level programming is based on specific criteria:

- Fragile and/or post-conflict states and situations
- States where support can be provided at a critical stage of the electoral or parliamentary cycle
- States where EISA support can complement or build on that provided by other actors in the international, continental, and sub-regional community
- States where there is political will for stronger democratic governance, including electoral and parliamentary integrity, and where relevant stakeholders are accessible





CONTINENTAL LEVEL

SUPPORTING TRANSITIONS + ELECTORAL PROCESSES

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Supporting Transitions & Electoral Processes (STEP)



The Supporting Transitions and Electoral Processes (STEP) programme in 2020, focused on regional work based on the learnings generated over 2018 and 2019 in the STEP three target countries - Madagascar, Mali and Mozambique, This entailed commencing the review process of the Principles for Election Management, Monitoring and Observation (PEMМО) and the development of a Civic and Voter Education (CVE) toolkit component. In addition, an internal evaluation of STEP's support to Civic and Voter Education (CVE) initiatives by civil society in Madagascar was carried out and an Associate Award was obtained under the STEP programme for an activity in Côte d'Ivoire.



IMPACT STORY



From implementing to assessing the CENI-CSOs joint sensitisation efforts for increased citizen participation in electoral processes in Madagascar

Promoting citizen participation in electoral and political processes necessitates effective partnership building among key stakeholders. With EISA's support, the CENI Madagascar and select local CSOs established a collaborative framework for joint civic and voter education (CVE) programming for the 2018 presidential elections. In January 2020, EISA, with the CENI and targeted CSOs, conducted an evaluation of the extent to which the electoral commission and STEP programme beneficiary CSOs were able to jointly promote informed citizen participation in the 2018 electoral process. The evaluation looked at the use of mutually reinforcing a CVE approach and methodology, including the development of a joint CVE strategy, joint curriculum used by the CENI and participating CSOs, trainings of trainers for the CENI and CSOs, and cascaded trainings. Evaluation findings showed that EISA's proposed CVE and sensitisation strategies were valuable and rewarding for both the CENI and CSOs, especially those organisations that had not formally participated in voter education before. The CENI indicated that improved coordination and communication with civic groups, especially in areas that it could not previously access, was of particular added value. The electoral commission leveraged CSOs' mobilisation capacities to recruit voter sensitisers to carry out door-to-door canvassing and other CVE activities at the fokontany (village) level. A 26% increase in the number of registered voters from the 2013 to the 2018 presidential election further attests to the added value of the CENI -CSOs joint CVE efforts for citizen participation during the 2018 elections.



HIGHLIGHTS



Production of ECF-EISA benchmarks (PEMМО) review stakeholder consultations report

Following consultations with electoral stakeholders in reviewing PEMМО by the working group, EISA compiled a report on the feedback received. Consultations were conducted mainly through an online questionnaire. The feedback gave an indication of the strengths and weaknesses of PEMМО. It also provided a solid basis for improving PEMМО in order to remain relevant in the contemporary electoral context, and for defining best practice in elections management, monitoring and observation for southern Africa and the rest of the continent. The report will assist the Working Group in redrafting the principles in 2021.

Associate Award Obtained to Observe the 2020 Elections in Côte d'Ivoire

EISA obtained its first Associate Award in June 2020 under the STEP LWA Africa Region, after a successful application in response to a request for applications from USAID/West Africa in March. The award is for a 12-month activity to deploy an international Election Observation Mission to observe both the 2020 October presidential election and the legislative election, initially scheduled for December, in Côte d'Ivoire. EISA established an office in Abidjan and deployed long-term as well as short-term observers during the presidential elections, in partnership with The Carter Center as the subrecipient. The legislative election was postponed to March 2021.

Development of Civic and Voter Education (VCE) Toolkit Components

From April to December 2020, EISA developed a digital Civic and Voter Education Toolkit. This online resource is the first of a kind produced by EISA for key democracy education stakeholders in Africa. To assist EISA with the digitisation of the toolkit, EISA's STEP programme team hired and worked closely with a digitisation specialist, and the digitisation of the catalogue of CVE resources, named CVElog, was completed. As a repository of e-resources, the CVElog will contribute to wider publicising and dissemination of a specialised body of knowledge on civic and voter education in Africa. A draft online guide and templates for the interactive toolbox were also finalised towards the end of 2020. The digital CVE Toolkit will contribute to the design and delivery of impactful democracy education campaigns by African election management bodies (EMBs) and civic groups.

Elections & Political Processes (EPP)



2020 proved to be a challenging year for the EPP department, as it was with EISA institutionally, due to the COVID-19 pandemic which resulted in the EPP department reviewing its strategy and developing a new methodology. This included conducting nine virtual pre-assessment missions (PAM) and a hybrid of both virtual and on-site PAMs when circumstances permitted, enabling EPP to deliver on its mandate. The department also developed health and safety protocols to be adhered to during the deployment of its International Election Observation Missions (IEOM) to ensure the safety of its staff and IEOM observers. Despite the pandemic, EISA deployed IEOMs to the presidential and parliamentary elections in Côte d' Ivoire and the general elections in Tanzania. The EPP programmes were supported by the Embassy of Sweden, Addis Ababa and the Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office, United Kingdom.

IMPACT STORY



The EISA IEOM to the general elections in Tanzania

EISA International Election Observation Mission deployed to Tanzania's General Elections

The EPP department obtained accreditation and deployed an international election observer mission to the 28 October 2020 general Elections in Tanzania. The 14-member short-term observation mission was led by the chairperson of the former Independent Electoral Commission (IEC) of South Africa, Advocate Pansy Tlakula. Observers were drawn from civil society groups, electoral commissions, and electoral experts from 11 African countries. At a time when most organisations were not deploying observer missions due to the apparent health risks and travel restrictions, EPP was able to develop

health and safety protocols to which observers adhered. The mission was able to deploy to the capital as well as various parts of the country to gain a holistic view of election conduct. In addition to containment measures instituted by various countries, the health and safety protocols developed by EISA could be adapted by in-country EISA offices to allow them to conduct activities safely without exposing either staff or participants to infection. The mission issued a preliminary statement (<https://www.eisa.org/pdf/tan2020preliminary.pdf>) and received wide media coverage.

HIGHLIGHTS



Participants at the TOT workshop held in Côte d'Ivoire ahead of the presidential and parliamentary elections

Training Political Party Poll Watchers in Côte d'Ivoire

The EPP conducted a training of trainers (ToT) for political party poll watchers in Côte d'Ivoire ahead of the first round presidential elections on 31 October, and the parliamentary elections on 6 March. Over 40 trainers were trained in two workshops held in Yamoussoukro and Korhogo and were expected to replicate the training to members of their respective political parties ahead of their deployment on election day. The programme developed by EISA included coverage of the legal framework and electoral law, reporting procedures and relevant information relating to the voting and counting procedures. This training contributed to the poll watchers promoting transparency and openness in an election, not only by their actions in recording the process, but by their presence in the polling station.



EPP staff members meeting with the Independent High Authority for Elections (ISIE) in Tunisia at the election follow-up meeting

Election follow up methodology workshop

As part of improving its electoral cycle approach to election observation, the EPP department held a two-day election follow-up methodology development workshop in Johannesburg early in 2020. This will apply to following up on the implementation of the EISA IEOM findings and recommendations by the relevant stakeholders. The methodology was piloted in Tunisia in December 2020, when EISA conducted a post-election follow-up visit after the 2019 elections. The four-member team met with members of the electoral commission, political parties and civil society organisations. The team was well received by all parties, and had fruitful discussions on how to assist in the implementation of the recommendations.



EPP PAM meeting with the chairperson of the Central African Electoral Commission during the election pre-assessment mission.

Pre-Assessment Missions (PAMs)

During the reporting period, the EPP conducted nine pre-election assessment missions. These PAMs enabled EISA to assess the election preparedness of the different countries holding elections in 2020, gain an understanding the prevailing political climate, assess the conditions for holding transparent and democratic elections, and offer recommendations such as measures to prevent the spread of COVID-19 during elections. Findings of these missions contributed to the preliminary statements of both the EISA deployed missions and the African Union Election Observation Missions to which EISA provided technical support.

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Governance Institutions & Processes (GIPPS)



During 2020, GIPPS coordinated activities and interventions in collaboration with other EISA offices/departments, external partners, and directly for specific projects. Supported by Sweden, through the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (Sida), GIPPS contributed to EISA's overall work under the Africa Democracy Strengthening programme. The work focussed on political party support, research into social cohesion in democratic states, and technology's impact on the democratic field. GIPPS supported the Mozambique and Tanzania offices to develop more sophisticated data collection through the use of EISA's Popola online data collection system, as well as analysis of this data collected through a grant from the Carnegie Corporation of New York, in partnership with the universities of Michigan and the Witwatersrand. GIPPS was given a research grant by the Open Society Institute of Southern Africa (OSISA) to investigate the impact of the Coronavirus pandemic on CSOs supporting democratic processes in African states. GIPPS further contributed to the successful awarding of two grants in 2020 in support of democratic elections in Tanzania and Sudan; both grants were awarded by the European Union.



Screenshot of animation video describing EOM methodology ▼

IMPACT STORY



Carnegie Corporation of New York Project (on local patterns of election-related violence and peace in Africa)

2020 marks the second year of EISA'S efforts to promote access to EISA EOM data and its use in studies of African politics. GIPPS took the lead by coordinating a three-day workshop from 21 to 23 January 2020. This capacitated postgraduate students from South African and Mozambican universities with applicable field research methods and data sets that students could use to develop and publish papers using data collected from EISA International Election Observation Missions (IEOMs). Twelve original research papers were developed by post-graduate students during this project, achieving EISA's commitment in its concept note to expand

the access of African researchers, students and academics to primary field research data in order to support peacebuilding and conflict resolution efforts in Africa.

Since its adoption in 2018, the project has led to significant innovations in EISA'S IEOM methodology and has further strengthened EISA's level of influence through a positive collaboration with the universities of Michigan and the Witwatersrand (Wits). A short animation video explaining the methodology of election observers in layman terms was developed and is now available for public dissemination.

EISA, in partnership with the University of Michigan and the University of Witwatersrand, applied for a further two-year support in September 2020 with the CCNY. The submission was rated as 'exceptional and highly innovative' by independent reviewers, with CCNY approving a further 24 months of work on this project until 2022.

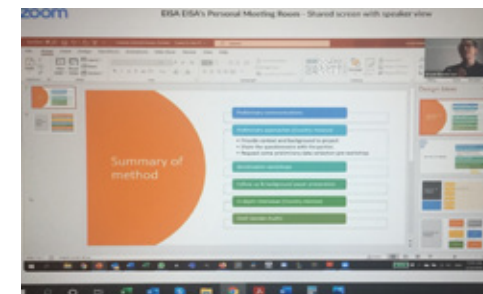
HIGHLIGHTS



EISA Fact-finding team meeting political parties in Ethiopia, 21 January 2020

Ethiopia Fact-Finding mission

In anticipation of Ethiopia's general elections that were to be held in August 2020, GIPPS undertook a fact-finding mission to explore the political environment and also to introduce EISA to political parties as CEPPS partner. The team met with the National Democratic Institute (NDI) to discuss the political party landscape, the new legal framework and its implications for the project, and the methodology for the participation of political parties in poll watching and legal officer training. The GIPPS team was pleased that three (ECIMA, OLF and All Oromia People's Democratic Congress) of the six major political parties that it met with expressed interest and believe that both the poll watcher and legal officer training will add value to their capacity to monitor elections. Due to COVID-19 both trainings were postponed following the postponement of the elections and will resume in 2021. The team has developed a manual that will be used to train political party poll watchers in 2021.



Grant Masterson presenting at the internal review meeting on gender audits for political parties, 26 May 2020

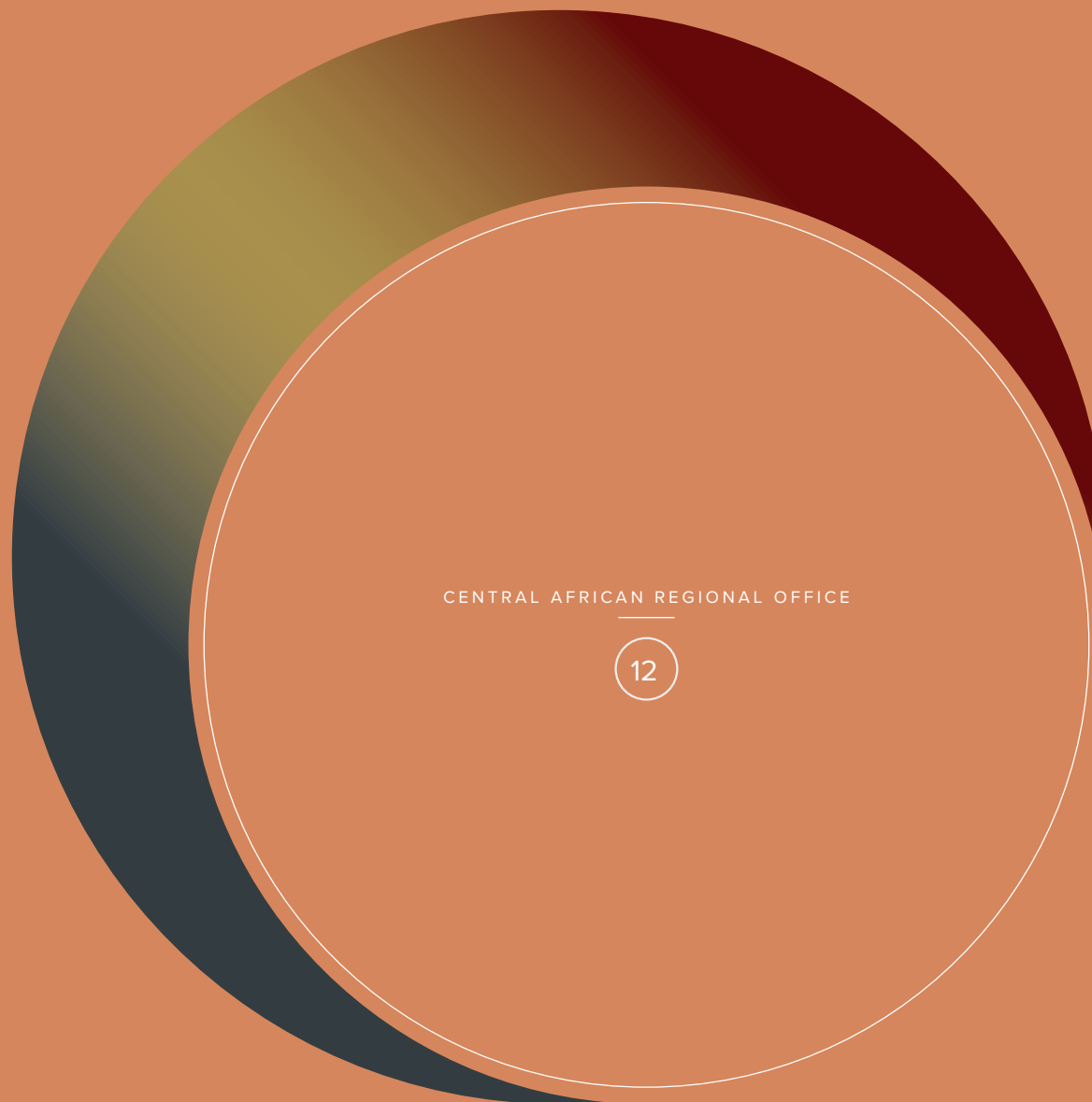
EISA Political Party Gender Audits

GIPPS coordinated EISA's efforts to unlock the potential of political parties as a vehicle to promote more equitable representation of women in political affairs through party-led initiatives. An online internal review meeting was held on 26 and 27 May 2020, providing an opportunity for EISA staff across the different field offices to share lessons learnt and to further fine-tune methodology for engaging political parties across the continent. GIPPS further rolled out the second phase of the gender audits for the political parties' project in Botswana. The online consultations sought to establish party interest in proceeding with the second phase of the gender audit, which requires political parties to submit responses to the questionnaire to be included in EISA's draft customised gender audit reports. The Botswana Movement for Democracy (BMD) was the first political party to advance to the next phase which will lead to a customised gender audit report for the party's internal use.



SUB-REGIONAL LEVEL

EISA has a regional office in Gabon.



CENTRAL AFRICAN REGIONAL OFFICE

12

Central African Regional Office

Over the past year EISA continued its support to the Economic Community of Central African States (ECCAS). In 2020, the COVID-19 pandemic slowed down political activity in the Central African region and over the year saw an increase in the number of people infected by the virus. Political tensions have fallen significantly to the point where insecure areas are experiencing a period of calm due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The new leadership of the Commission of the Economic Community of Central African States (ECCAS) took office on 1 September 2020. The new structure gives power to the ECCAS Commission in regard to day-to-day management, although ECCAS remains under the control of the heads of state. ECCAS also faces a funding challenge, which limits its ability to implement its ambitious projects. Within the electoral framework, the government of Cameroon held legislative and municipal elections on 9 February. In Burundi, the outgoing president, Pierre Nkurunziza, decided not to run for a fourth term of office, which opened the way for a new head of state. Burundi held general elections on 20 May despite the COVID-19 pandemic, which saw the appointment of Évariste Ndayishimiye as the new president of Burundi. With EISA's continued support, funded by the Embassy of Sweden in Addis Ababa, ECCAS's pre-assessment missions (PAMS) are gaining in scope and the capacity of ECCAS to conduct PAMs has become more professional. ECCAS has adopted EISA's methodology of organising the briefing and the orientation session for its observers.

IMPACT STORY



Principles governing democratic elections in Central Africa

Following the development of the draft "Principles Governing Democratic Elections in the Economic Community of Central African States", developed in 2018, there have been fruitful visits to member states by ECCAS, supported by EISA, to share, discuss and get further input, as well as interact with the United Nations. This can be seen in the outcome of the fifth meeting of the United Nations Standing Advisory Committee on Security Questions in Central Africa that took place in Equatorial Guinea from 02 to 04 December 2020. The meeting encouraged ECCAS to adopt regional principles and standards relating to democratic elections in Central Africa, drawing on the commitments made in this regard by states, particularly within the framework of principles and guidelines of the United Nations, the African Union and other international or regional organisations. The support provided by EISA has played a positive role in these developments and this meeting reflects a recognition of the importance of ECCAS's initiative in this regard.

HIGHLIGHTS



In the first row fourth from the left the Director General of ELECAM, followed by the Secretary General of ECCAS and then the UNICEF representative in Cameroon.



The Director General of ELECAM (Elections Cameroon) handing over the trainer's certificate to the representative of EISA



Head of the mission and ECCAS observers to CAR EOM

Media trainings and awareness-raising workshops on the prevention of electoral conflicts and hate speech during elections

Two workshops were held, the first in Yaoundé on 15, 16 and 17 January and the second in N'Djamena on 22, 23 and 24 January 2020. The workshops were attended by professional journalists including the chief editor or head of the political desk representing print, television, radio, cyber press, and community radio managers. Fifty participants, 14 of whom were women, attended the Yaoundé workshop and 48 participants, 21 of whom were women, attended the N'Djamena workshop.

The United Nations Regional Office for Central Africa (UNOCA), the African Union, and the Electoral Institute for Sustainable Democracy in Africa (EISA) partnered in providing technical support to the Electoral Commission of Cameroon. There was complementarity in the interventions as each organisation had a specific topic to develop. EISA was responsible for developing the following topics: Reminders on the electoral cycle and its different stages; The electoral cycle as seen by a journalist; Application of journalistic ethics and deontology during elections; and The media: key actors in the promotion of peace and the fight against hate speech during elections. Both were high-level workshops as the opening and closing addresses were given by the secretary-general of ECCAS and the president of the Electoral Commission in the country.

Electoral Commissions' voting operations workshop in Yaoundé

The Cameroonian Electoral Commission requested EISA, ECCAS and the United Nations Regional Office for Central Africa (UNOCA) to provide technical support for a workshop that took place from 8 to 10 January 2020. The workshop was attended by 70 participants, including 38 women, and covered a range of topics including electoral matters; the electoral cycle; the legal and institutional framework specific to legislative and municipal elections in Cameroon; international standards governing elections in Africa; and the organisation of electoral operations. The participants were also well informed on the legal framework governing voting operations, as well as international best practice. This workshop was highly relevant as the request came from the Cameroon Electoral Commission itself. The presence of the secretary-general of ECCAS showed the importance that ECCAS attached to the workshop. The president of the Electoral Commission of Cameroon expressed the wish that this kind of workshop be organised again in the future.

ECCAS Election Observation Mission (EOM) Staff Guidebook on Planning and Implementing Election Observation Missions

EISA supported ECCAS in drafting an ECCAS election observation mission staff handbook to enable them to plan for and implement an EOM. After discussions with the ECCAS electoral support unit on the content in order to determine the topics to be covered, commencement on the draft began with further input from the ECCAS Commissioner for Peace and Security. The manual was completed in 2020 and is being reviewed. The development of the manual was a collaboration between EISA and the ECCAS electoral support unit with EISA having the task of finalising the handbook. This manual will add value to the deployment of ECCAS election observers.



COUNTRY LEVEL

In addition to supporting EISA programmes, EOMs and building stakeholder networks, the EISA field offices have engaged in the following key activities.

P20 NIGER

EISA opened an office in Niger in 2020 to support civil society citizen observation and support to the Electoral Commission (CENI) and the media regular the Conseil Supérieur de la Communication (CSC)

P16 CÔTE D'IVOIRE

EISA opened a regional office in Abidjan. EISA also implemented a programme to assess the integrity of 220 presidential and legislative elections through a joint EISA/The Carter Center deployment of an International Election Observation Mission.

P12 GABON CENTRAL AFRICAN REGIONAL OFFICE

In June 2010, EISA signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the Economic Community of Central African States (ECCAS) aimed at increasing the role and capacity of ECCAS to assess elections as well as to provide meaningful electoral assistance to its member states. To achieve this, EISA has opened a sub-regional office in Gabon working closely with the office of the Secretary General of ECCAS.

P17 DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO

Since 2017 EISA, working with Democracy Reporting International (DRI), has headed the Projet de Renforcement de l'Observation Citoyenne des Elections au Congo (PROCEC) and also supported Synergie des Missions d'Observation Citoyenne des Elections (SYMOCEL), a network set up on 1 March 2016 by ten civil society organisations. EISA has continued its support for SYMOCEL in 2018, 2019 and 2020.

P24 ZIMBABWE

Since 2011, through a Memorandum of Association (MoU) with the Zimbabwe Electoral Commission (ZEC), EISA has provided technical support to ZEC in a number of areas including introducing a multi-stakeholder approach to the electoral management in order to contribute to inclusive, peaceful, transparent and credible elections.

CAR P15

EISA re-opened its office in the Central African Republic (CAR) in August 2020 with funding from the European Union and the French Embassy in CAR.

SOMALIA P22

EISA's field office in Somalia, established in November 2013, provides much needed technical support. It conducted capacity building initiatives in support of the electoral and peace process engaging with state and non-state actors with a strong focus on the inclusion of women and youth.

BURUNDI P14

EISA provided support to two civil society observation organisations to observe the presidential and national assembly elections held on 20 May and 24 August 2020.

TANZANIA P23

In support of the 2020 general elections EISA supported a peace monitoring exercise, partnering with three local organisations from the Mainland and Zanzibar.

MADAGASCAR P18

Since EISA opened an office in Madagascar in 2007 with a specific focus on encouraging greater participation by women in public life, EISA has supported a number of initiatives such as a national and regional campaign to lobby for 30% representation of women in decision making processes and provide capacity building programmes for women's empowerment, including women representatives at local and parliamentary level.

MOZAMBIQUE P19

Since opening its office in Mozambique in 2004 EISA provides support to electoral stakeholders. EISA has initiated a series of electoral processes monitoring projects such as PVTs, post election follow up and disseminating knowledge and information to stakeholders.

SOUTH AFRICA

EISA has an office in Johannesburg that provides support where it hosts an extensive library and provides support to all EISA programmes.

BURUNDI



EISA provided support to civil society citizen observation, funded by the European Union, to monitor Burundi's presidential and national assembly elections on 20 May 2020, and the 24 August 2020 local elections (élections collinaires). EISA's support included technical capacity building, the professionalisation of citizen election observation and the deployment of citizen observers. EISA signed a six-month Memorandum of Understanding with two local organisations that outlined the terms of the partnership.

Counting in Karussi, 20 May 2020

IMPACT STORY



EISA supports CSOs to recruit, train and deploy EOMs

EISA supported two Burundian civil society organisations, namely the Commission Episcopale Justice et Paix and Fontaine Isoko to recruit, train and deploy 240 long-term observers and 3 654 short-term observers to monitor the 2020 presidential, legislative and local elections. Their findings documented areas for improvement in the conduct and organisation of electoral processes in Burundi. The conclusions and recommendations of the observers were shared with the Independent National Election Commission (INEC). Their findings have laid a solid base for continued engagement with stakeholders in regard to the review of the legal and institutional framework for future elections in Burundi.



OCT training, working groups, Makamba, 17 May 2020

HIGHLIGHTS



Core team and national coordinators from CEJP and Fontaine Isoko, core team training, Bujumbura, 2 May 2020



Tabulation of data at the electoral situation room, Fontaine Isoko EOM, 20 May 2020



A view of the Electoral Situation Room, CEJP EOM, 20 May 2020

Training of local CSOs

Prior to the deployment of observers, core teams within both partner organisations were identified. These included mission leaders (the president of the Catholic Bishops' Conference of Burundi and the chair of the board of directors of Fontaine Isoko), national coordinators, electoral experts, and trainers. The core teams comprised 22 participants from both organisations and were trained on identifying, recruiting, training, deployment and coordination of observers. In addition, the training held in Bujumbura included observation methodology; data collection; and the drafting and dissemination of observation findings. This was the first time local organisations were empowered and strengthened to provide observation in a more professional manner.

Citizen election observation training of trainers

As part of its support to the professionalisation of citizen election observation, the project conducted intense training in a train of trainers approach in preparation of the deployment. Thirteen participants drawn from the two partner organisations attended a train the trainer course on election observation according to the electoral cycle approach. This would enable them to have an impact on the electoral reforms phase. To this end, a focus has been put on the management of interactions with other electoral stakeholders including the INEC, political parties and media regulatory body, as the project started with the establishment of a media monitoring unit.

EISA observes 2020 elections

The project supported the two largest citizen election observation missions for the 2020 elections in Burundi. In the absence of any international observation mission, these were the only organisations to deploy and observe those elections. Their well-documented findings and recommendations were shared with key electoral stakeholders. While the presentation of the findings had a hostile reception from both the political parties and electoral authorities, they were eventually accepted by all electoral stakeholders, and it is anticipated that the recommendations can serve as basis for possible future electoral and institutional reforms. Following the elections these organisations will focus on disseminating the observation findings and advocate for the recommendations to provide the basis for future election reforms.

CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC

EISA re-opened its office in the Central African Republic (CAR) in August 2020 with funding from the European Union complemented by the French Embassy in CAR. The project aims to contribute to the holding of credible, inclusive and participative presidential and legislative elections through an independent assessment of the process by civil society. To give effect to the project implementation, EISA worked with the Arc-en-Ciel Network (RAC), a network that EISA has supported previously. This umbrella network is made up of 17 citizen organisations.



RAC observers and international partners at the launch of the RAC election observer mission in October 2020

IMPACT STORY



EISA supports CSOs to recruit, train and deploy EOMs

EISA supported two Burundian civil society organisations, namely the Commission Episcopale Justice et Paix and Fontaine Isoko to recruit, train and deploy 240 long-term observers and 3 654 short-term observers to monitor the 2020 presidential, legislative and local elections. Their findings documented areas for improvement in the conduct and organisation of electoral processes in Burundi. The conclusions and recommendations of the observers were shared with the Independent National Election Commission (INEC). Their findings have laid a solid base for continued engagement with stakeholders in regard to the review of the legal and institutional framework for future elections in Burundi.



RAC LTOs trained in Bangui

HIGHLIGHTS



EISA training observers

Training LTOs on election cycle

EISA training observers

In October 2020, EISA trained 126 long-term observers from the RAC on long-term observation methodology. These observers were deployed countrywide covering over 94% of the country's regions, following up on the ongoing election operations since voter registration. The RAC observers were selected according to rigorous criteria including their level of education and electoral experience. Besides the technical aspects of electoral observation, the training of observers included the legal framework, relevant election legislation, communication channels for providing information to the election situation room and the parallel voter tabulation methodology.



Training LTOs on election cycle

Establishing an Election Situation Room (ESR)

An election situation room was introduced in CAR for first time for the presidential and legislative elections on 27 December 2020. This was in order to strengthen support to observer assessments and keep the public up to date on election issues. Supported by EISA and under the supervision of the RAC, the ESR was responsible for real-time monitoring of the election process observed in the field, and producing circumstantial statements on the progress of the election as it unfolded. The ESR received several high-profile visitors including those from the Ministry of Security, the European Union, the embassies of the United States of America and France, as well as international observers (European Union, African Union, Economic Community of Central African State) and the media.



Media briefing held on December 30, 2020

Press conference by RAC citizen observer mission

As part of its strategy of visibility and popularisation of its observations, the Arc-en-Ciel network (RAC) organised two press conferences with the support of EISA. The first, held on 24 December 2020 provided an assessment of the security situation in the country and the preparedness of the EMB, the Autorité Nationale des Elections (ANE), before the vote. The second media briefing provided an opportunity to release its preliminary statement after the elections held on 27 December 2020. The preliminary statement noted the context of violence in which elections were held. Both media briefings excited great interest and highlighted the valuable contribution that citizen observers were making and the role that they play in encouraging a conducive election environment and keeping the public informed of election developments.

CÔTE D'IVOIRE

The USAID supported 'Assessing the Integrity of the 2020 Presidential and Legislative Election in Côte d'Ivoire' through the joint EISA/The Carter Center deployment of an International Election Observation Mission, which enabled EISA to open an office in Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire in 2020. The professionalism and integrity of the mission have contributed to bringing EISA to the attention of political actors and civil society.



IMPACT STORY



Strengthening electoral integrity

The project aimed to strengthen the integrity of the 2020 presidential and legislative elections in Côte d'Ivoire through the deployment of an independent international election observation mission to monitor, assess and report on all phases of the electoral process in accordance with international and regional standards. Jointly implemented by EISA and The Carter Center, the various reports and mission statements were received as highly objective and contributed to the easing of political tensions and operational improvement of the electoral process in Côte d'Ivoire, particularly in preparation for the legislative elections. EISA has become a major actor in the socio-political life of Côte d'Ivoire. Its recommendations following the first-round presidential elections were taken into account for the National Assembly elections held xxx.



Announcement to the media of the deployment of STOs to the first round presidential election

HIGHLIGHTS



The EISA/TCC Head of Mission briefing the mediator of his meeting with the president of the Ivorian Constitutional Council



Training of STOs in Abidjan before their deployment to the field. Briefing session administered by Oumar Doumbia, EISA security expert



Presentation of the preliminary statement to the press on 2 November 2020 by the head of the EISA / TCC observation mission in Côte d'Ivoire

Assessment of the context prior to the first-round presidential election

The mission held regular consultations with key electoral stakeholders such as the Constitutional Council, the Commission Electorale Indépendante (CEI); civil society organisations (specifically women's organisations); political parties and groupings, including international and intergovernmental organisations that were involved during the presidential election; and also conducted an observation of pre-election operational activities. The mission was thus able to issue an objective pre-election assessment statement reporting on breaches of the integrity of the electoral process. The strong message it sent out was respect for the expression and choice of Ivorian voters.

Deployment of qualified/trained observers

For the first-round presidential election held on 31 October 2020, the IEOM deployed 12 long-term international observers made up of 6 teams, and 24 short-term international observers made up of 12 teams. Their function was to observe voting operations in 213 polling stations in 17 of the country's 33 regions and autonomous districts. EISA was the only international observer mission to deploy long-term observers. On Election Day, the IEOM deployed 50 international observers from 28 African and European countries throughout the country, including 36 observers (24 STOs and 12 LTOs) in the field and 14 experts on the Core Team to assess the October 31 election. The team was composed of 22 women and 28 men.

Preliminary statement reflecting the integrity of the observation

On 2 November 2020, the IEOM hosted a press conference to present the IEOM preliminary statement following the first-round presidential election in October. The large media attendance at the press conference allowed for its wide dissemination. The objectivity of the preliminary statement was highly appreciated by civil society organisations and the international community. In addition, the findings on the low level of participation by women should give rise to in-depth reflections and future actions. The mission also produced six political, legal, electoral, gender and security analyses before the election, and two pre-election press releases.

DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO

EISA supported Congolese civil society in the implementation of the project to strengthen citizen observation of elections in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (PROCEC) for the 2018 presidential election and 2019 legislative elections. PROCEC was funded by the European Union. Following recommendations made by civil society observers, EISA provided further support to civil society in advocating for electoral reforms. The foundation laid by citizen observers through the PROCEC project contributed to improving electoral process in the country.



UN/MONUSCO/Sylvain Liechti

IMPACT STORY



Congolese civil society organisations advocacy for electoral reforms: presentation of the reform proposals by CSOs

EISA supported the creation of a consortium of four civil society organisations that had deployed citizen observers countrywide to the 2018 presidential, national assembly and provincial assembly elections. This consortium comprised the Synergie des Missions d'Observation Citoyennes des Elections (SYMOCEL), Agir-pour-des-Elections-Transparentes-et-Apaisées (AETA), Commission Episcopale Justice et Paix / Conférence Episcopale Nationale du Congo (CEJP/CENCO) and Commission Justice Paix et Sauvegarde de la Création/Eglise du Christ au Congo (CJPSC/ECC). Following the elections, EISA supported SYMOCEL in pooling the recommendations drawn from observers' reports on election day.



Submission of the civil society repository on reforms to His Excellency, President Félix Tshisekedi (centre) during national consultations on 2 November 2020. On the left is the SYMOCEL National Coordinator /Coordinator of the national day of reflection, Bishop Abraham Djamba. On the right is the late Deputy Coordinator of SYMOCEL Master lawyer Marie Andre Muila, who passed away in January 2021

HIGHLIGHTS



The EISA DRC Country Director facilitating the consortium advocacy workshop at Kisantu

Civil society capacity building on electoral advocacy

Strengthening the consortium's capacity was identified as necessary to enable their members to conduct effective campaigns in order to advocate for electoral reforms and monitor the implementation of these reforms. In order to start the process, EISA conducted a capacity building workshop for consortium members. This included advocacy techniques, developing a strategy for an electoral reform campaign, engaging with Parliament to promote electoral reforms, as well as participation in the work of the political-administrative-legal committee of the National Assembly. The workshop was held in Kisantu from 17 to 21 March 2020.



Mutualisation workshop on reform proposals from different CSOs held in Kinshasa on 24 August 2020

Mobilising for electoral reforms

EISA facilitated a meeting of civil society organisations to find a consensus on the approach to an effective electoral reform campaign. The meeting was held from 21 to 22 August 2020, followed by a validation session on 24 August to finalise the strategy. This resulted in the pooling of the various reform proposals that were validated during the national days of reflection.



'National Days for Electoral Reforms' gathering

National Days of Reflection on Electoral Reforms

In support of the mobilisation of civil society organisations on electoral reforms, EISA organised a 'National Days for Electoral Reforms' held in Kinshasa from 9 to 12 September 2020. The event was attended by 150 participants, 40% of whom were women. This initiative resulted in the production of a common repository of reforms proposed by civil society organisations. Delegates pledged their commitment to sensitising citizens on the amendments and how electoral reforms can contribute to reducing violence during future elections in the DRC.

MADAGASCAR

In 2020, EISA increased its initiative to promote gender equality, not only through technical support to women Members of Parliament (MPs) but also through a range of initiatives to amplify national efforts to address barriers to women's full participation in decision-making processes.

IMPACT STORY



Building women MPs' capacities in drafting laws impact their contribution to parliamentary work

As the main partner supporting women MPs in the National Assembly, EISA provided technical support to improve their skills in drafting laws. Since the beginning of the new legislature in 2019, only 2 out of the 27 women MPs had proposed a bill at the National Assembly. In response to this need EISA engaged with women MPs who acknowledged the need for such capacity-building as "there is no school to become a MP" and lack of knowledge on law drafting is limiting the National Assembly's performance. Following this workshop, two women MPs who had participated in the training proposed

one motion for resolution and two bills during the budgetary parliamentary sitting. This is an improvement compared to the beginning of the legislature where limited initiatives from women MPs were forthcoming. that included the lack of confidence in their ability to draft laws adequately. As indicated by one of the participants, the Honourable Rakotomalala Dina, from the District of Fandriana,

"EISA is contributing to shaping skilled, efficient, and trustworthy MPs, which is key for a more democratic functioning National Assembly".



HIGHLIGHTS



Women MPs Ampefy



Multi-stakeholders dialogue to push for more women's participation in decision-making

To raise awareness amongst traditional leaders and promote an integrated approach in advancing gender equality and women's rights, EISA convened a roundtable in March 2020 in Toliara, a region where women's participation is among the lowest in Madagascar. Recommendations emanating from the roundtable included active engagement of traditional leaders and appropriate and context-based solutions regarding the improvement of women's participation in public life emerged from the discussion and shared with the Ministry of Women's Promotion.



Taking steps to raise awareness on violence against women in politics

As part of the UN Women, 16 days of activism against gender-based violence, EISA, in partnership with the Friedrich Ebert Foundation (FES), held the first-ever televised panel discussion on violence against women in politics in Madagascar. Violence against women in politics is barely addressed in Madagascar yet crucial for women's political empowerment. The panel discussion contributed to raising awareness on this issue among public opinion, decision-makers, and stakeholders and recorded 3070 views online.



Producing and disseminating data to alert on the step back in women's representation

The lack of data on women's participation remains a challenge in tackling gender inequalities. To support advocacy efforts and raise awareness to promote women's representation at the National Assembly, and beyond, EISA produced and disseminated comparative graphics on youth and women's representation. Women and youth associations welcomed such an initiative that brings evidence on the gaps that still need to be filled.

MOZAMBIQUE

In 2020, EISA Mozambique adapted its programmatic work to the context brought about by the COVID-19 pandemic, making strategic usage of Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs). Using technology in response to the pandemic, EISA conducted a series of virtual seminars on law reforms, democracy and women's political participation to mitigate the impact of the pandemic on EISA's programme. EISA's policy briefs also contributed to the discussion on the impact of the pandemic on the social, political and economic environment, by providing the public with information and creating opportunities for discussion and information sharing.



In terms of impact, the events recorded live, particularly on Facebook, have been widely viewed and shared. Videos on Law Reforms have been shared more than 60 times and have been watched for more than 5 000 minutes. Videos about Gender Relations have been watched for more 1 000 minutes and had more than 100 shares. Content related to issues on democracy has been watched for more than 2 000 minutes and shared more than 40 times.

IMPACT STORY



Influencing change through policy briefs

The coronavirus pandemic made 2020 an atypical year worldwide and Mozambique felt its impact deeply. With deficient sanitary conditions and uncertainty on how to deal with the new situation created by COVID-19, the government needed to reconsider whether to use a theoretical, technical, or practical orientation to deal with the pandemic and its impact across all sectors of its work. To assist in this process, EISA analysed various scenarios for dealing with the pandemic through a series of policy briefs. These provided the government with reasonable

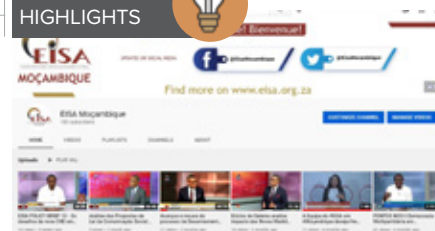
options, solutions and recommendations that could be adopted to minimise the impact of COVID-19 in the public sector. The most influential briefs were entitled "COVID-19 as an opportunity for the implementation of e-government" (*Policy Brief 2*) and "Legal and constitutional options in the context of COVID-19" (*Policy Brief 7*). The Mozambique government used ICT to continue service delivery, and *Policy Brief 2* used this experience to propose how citizens can continue to engage with elected representatives using technology as a tool, given the pandemic.

Prime Minister, Mr Agostinho do Rosário, urges the use of e-work in Mozambique ▶



EISA's country director, Ericino de Salema, on STV, a leading private broadcasting channel in the country, discussing the introduction of e-government in Mozambique ▶

HIGHLIGHTS



Influencing Policy through Social Media Platforms

With the aspiration of building its own brand in Mozambique and extending its outreach globally, EISA Mozambique created three social media pages (Facebook, Twitter, and YouTube) on 27 April 2020. From April to December 2020, the three pages were used to run online seminars and events which could not be conducted physically due to COVID-19 limitations.



Mama Graça Machel during an EISA Mozambique webinar



EISA and members of NGOs reflecting on strategies to advocate for the Mozambican Electoral Legislation

Improving Women's Political Participation

EISA dedicated a discussion to the topic "How the COVID-19 pandemic affected women's political participation" to encourage debate and discussion around the issue. The debate suggested that women's political participation in Mozambique has increased quantitatively, but not qualitatively. Although the Mozambique Parliament now has more women represented, from 100 in the period 2014-2019, to 106 women in Parliament following the 2019 elections, their contribution remains limited. EISA has developed a series of interventions to strengthen women's qualitative participation in Parliament, including a user guide enabling women parliamentarians to act as change agents towards the protection and promotion of women's rights. The guide also provides information on how to engage and collaborate with stakeholders, and input into the development of laws and policies that promote women's rights.

Electoral Legislation Reform

Following the October 2019 elections, several observer reports proposed a set of recommendations to improve the conduct of future elections. A number of observer reports highlighted that the Mozambique Electoral Law is "dispersed" and contained in different regulations and laws. In response, EISA conducted a thorough and critical analysis of the Electoral Law, and in March 2020, in collaboration with the Eduardo Mondlane University, published a book on the codification or harmonisation of the Mozambique Electoral Law. Throughout 2020, EISA facilitated face-to-face discussions with non-governmental organisations to discuss and advocate for changes in the country's electoral legislation. As a result, CSOs are now drafting a paper on what is required to consolidate the Mozambican electoral democracy. Once the paper is finalised, an action plan will be put in place to inform an advocacy process on the required changes that need to be made to the electoral legal framework.

NIGER

COALITION FOR CITIZEN OBSERVATION OF ELECTIONS IN NIGER



EISA opened an office in Niger in 2020, funded by the European Union, to support the contribution of citizen observers to a credible, transparent and peaceful electoral process. Citizen observers were recruited, trained and deployed to the presidential and national assembly elections held in Niger on 27 December 2020.

IMPACT STORY



EISA establishes Coalition for Citizen Observation of Elections in Niger

Following consultations with local stakeholders, EISA facilitated the establishment of a network made up of five organizations under the umbrella of the Coalition pour Observation Citoyenne des Elections au Niger (COCEN) (Coalition for Citizen Observation of Elections in Niger).

This was the first time that CSOs collaborated by establishing an umbrella network and working together to make a meaningful impact on the democratic electoral process. The network excited great interest in the media and at the conclusion of the election COCEN held a public briefing sharing their observation findings and recommendations. Through this network citizen observation was conducted more professionally and in line with best electoral practice. A preliminary statement was published: [athttps://www.eisa.org/pdf/nig2021cocen1.pdf](https://www.eisa.org/pdf/nig2021cocen1.pdf)



Presentation of preliminary findings 27 December 2020

HIGHLIGHTS



LTO training conducted in Zinder

Training network of electoral observers

With the support of EISA, COCEN recruited, trained and deployed 160 long-term observers and 750 short-term observers to all eight regions in the country. EISA supported COCEN in developing an appropriate curriculum with input from the partner organisations covering observation methodology and reporting. Using the train the trainer approach, local capacity was built by training 16 core trainers in facilitation skills and course content. In turn, the 16 trainers cascaded the training to their networks countrywide.



Training coordinators and supervisors

Supervisors trained to co-ordinate observers

EISA, with its partners, trained supervisors to strengthen their capacity to co-ordinate their respective observers in the field, collect information from the observers, and be on hand to respond to any issues that they might encounter on election day. Supervisor training took place in Niamey from 09 to 12 December 2020 for the 16 identified supervisors coming from all eight regions of the country, facilitated by EISA using the train-the-trainer approach. Trainers trained 160 LTOS on 24 June and 750 CTOs on 25 June 2020 in the regions.



Providing up-to-date data as it was captured and analysed by the Election Watch Unit

Enhancing the impact of election observation

To facilitate the collection and rapid processing of field data, EISA also extended its capacity building to COCEN partner organisations by using the EISA Popola system to capture data from their observers in the field linked to their mobile phones. To further enhance the impact of election observers, an election watch unit was set up where the data was processed, analysed and shared with the public in real time. Through the introduction and use of technology, COCEN was the largest and most successful citizen observation mission for the 2020 elections in Niger.

NIGER

ELECTORAL COMMISSION (CENI) & CONSEIL SUPÉRIEUR DE LA COMMUNICATION (CSC)



The 2020–2021 elections in Niger had the particularity of four elections (local, parliamentary and two presidential rounds) held in the space of two months. Funded by the European Union, EISA's contribution to the process was crucial, providing support to the two key institutions of this process, namely the Electoral Commission (CENI) and the media regulator, the Conseil Supérieur de la Communication (CSC). Through its support EISA Niger enabled the CENI to strengthen its effectiveness on key points in the management of the electoral process, such as the deployment of electoral materials in the eight regions of Niger, and the training of electoral agents, which contributed to the overall smooth organization of the polls. EISA also provided significant technical and financial support to the CSC in the form of media monitoring equipment, methodology and coverage, resulting in equitable access by political parties to the media, including those parties with limited financial means. Strengthening the capacities of our partners and supporting their operational tasks positively impacted the overall electoral process and contributed to credible and inclusive elections, but also led to a peaceful change of power for the first time in the country's history.

IMPACT STORY



The logistic and operational assistance that made a difference

Logistics are at the heart of electoral operations and were a great challenge for the CENI of Niger, particularly in an immense country of 1,267,000 km². EISA assisted the CENI in strengthening the logistical chain, by packing and deploying election materials to the country's 25,978 polling stations, training 51,956 polling agents, electoral operation planning, and coordinating the distribution of voter cards. EISA also supported the CENI in conducting voter and civic education by providing voters with the necessary information to participate in the elections. To strengthen results transmission and dissemination EISA provided the CENI with computers, printers, and modems. This support enabled the CENI to strengthen its capacities and meet the logistical and operational challenges that conducting an election requires.



Ballot boxes timely deployed in Niger's 25,978 polling stations.

HIGHLIGHTS



Facilitating a Training of trainers session

Training electoral staff

The EISA Niger office provided technical and financial support for the training and briefing more than 700 CENI electoral staff and polling agents in Niger's eight regions using the train-the-trainer approach. These trainers in turn trained a total of 51,956 polling station staff for the local elections of 13 December 2020, and the presidential and parliamentary elections of 27 December 2020. These staff were also deployed to the presidential run off on 21 February 2021. This training added great value to CENI's work by improving electoral staff performance in running polling stations for all the elections that were held.



Dr Denisa Ioneta, the EU Ambassador in Niger visiting the CSC to view the new equipment purchased

Innovative traditional and social media monitoring

EISA equipped the CSC with latest generation hard and software, enabling the CSC to monitor up to 160 TV and radio channels. This allows the CSC to monitor broadcasting media across Niger, including those in remote areas that were previously out of the regulator's control and could be used to spread hate speech and inappropriate religious sermons. As another added value, EISA helped CSC align its media monitoring methodology with international standards by including a quantitative and qualitative evaluation of paid advertisements used by candidates during the campaigns. Lastly, EISA went beyond the monitoring of traditional media to include social media. Facebook was thus monitored, through a pilot project that provided the CSC with key data regarding the level and sources of violent speech on this digital platform, and with indicators for the regulation of social media in Niger in particular and West Africa in general.



Recording campaign messages of political parties and independent candidates

Support for candidate's equal access to media

Equitable access to the media for competing parties is essential for credible and inclusive elections. EISA supported the CSC by taking the necessary measures to ensure that all parties and candidates, including opposition parties and independent candidates, are fairly treated by the public broadcaster. The project supported a public draw determining when a party or candidate could access public media. It also provided financial support needed by public TV and radio to provide equal access for the campaign messages of the 30 presidential candidates and the 83 and 93 political parties competing respectively for the parliamentary and local elections. This financial and technical support was crucial for inclusive and peaceful elections, as it has prevented any penalisation of small parties in the communication with their voters.

SOMALIA



During the reporting period the discussion around Somalia's elections and election model took centre stage for the return of Somalia's first universal suffrage (one-person, one-vote) election since 1969. Despite a myriad of challenges that came with the COVID-19 pandemic at both domestic and international levels, 2020 was a productive year for the EISA Somalia office. It contributed to the political processes in Somalia through the Stand Up Somalia programme supported by the Embassy of Sweden, Nairobi, through the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (Sida) intervention. EISA Somalia also supported capacity building at the local government level through the support of the European Union, Nairobi to the Finn Church AID Local Government programme where EISA is a partner. In November EISA signed a programme with the European Union, Nairobi to support a project titled Peaceful Elections and Civil Society Enhancement (PEACE) in Somalia.

IMPACT STORY



Role of the media in contributing to peaceful elections

In partnership with the National Union of Somali Journalists (NUSOJ) and the African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM), EISA held a two-day national conference on *Hate Speech in Elections* on 27 and 28 December 2020. The conference, which was held virtually and in-person, brought together more than 140 participants including media professionals, electoral bodies at federal and state levels, the Somali Police Force, political parties, security agencies, international partners and civil society organisations, the Somali government, AMISOM, the European Union, the British Embassy, and more than 20 respected individuals

from the private sector, heads and representatives of international organisations, and civil society representatives with expertise on Somalia. Participants deliberated on issues regarding media professionalism, hate speech, incitement to violence, the safety of journalists, and the role of the media in contributing to peaceful elections. The two-day conference resulted in the adoption of a declaration to ensure peaceful elections. It also contributed to enhancing the safety of journalists during elections through identifying areas of hate speech as well as combatting hate speech and promoting a peaceful election.



From left: Mr Simon Mulongo (Deputy Head of AMISOM), H.E Mohamed Abdirizak (Minister of Foreign Affairs & International Co-operations), H.E Ben Fender (UK Ambassador), Mr Omar Farouk (Secretary-General of NUSOJ), Mr Abdurahman Khalid Macow (EISA National Programme Officer, standing in for EISA Country Director)

HIGHLIGHTS



Fostering women's participation in public life

On 31 October 2020 EISA supported a live television panel discussion to commemorate the United Nations Council Resolution 1325 on Women, Peace and Security. The discussion's objective was to increase women's confidence in contributing to a meaningful inclusion in Somalia's politics whilst safeguarding and re-enforcing laws guiding women's protection across all walks of life. The panel also sought to empower women to participate in Somalia's progress towards peace, security and stable political processes. The event reached more than 7 000 viewers.

Panelists: Ms Asha Siyad, Chairperson of Somali Women's Leadership Initiative (SWLI); Ms Halima Ismail, Chairperson of NIEC and General Zakia Hussain, Deputy Commissioner of the Somali Police Force



Capacity Strengthening Support to Galkayo District Council Members

EISA is a partner in the Finn Church AID programme focussed on building the capacities of local councils to enable them to improve service delivery for citizens. A three-day leadership training course was conducted for the newly-elected Galkayo local council members from 11 to 13 November 2020. The overall objective of the training was to strengthen the capacity of the Galkayo local council members through the introduction of good leadership practices in order to perform their leadership responsibilities effectively, and to develop a positive working relationship among the different tiers of government. The training was attended by 22 men and 5 women including the mayor and his deputy.

Leadership training session for Galkayo district elected council members at Five-star hotel in Galkayo town



Let's talk elections

Through its series "Let's Talk Elections", EISA continued to inform and educate citizens about the planned 2020/2021 elections. Nineteen events were held, which were largely broadcast on national and private media in Somalia. The debates hosted high-profile guests and speakers from the Office of the President, Office of the Prime Minister, both the lower and upper Houses of Parliament, members of the government, the National Independent Electoral Commission (NIEC), and civil society organisations. These events reached many Somalis in the diaspora through the use of social media platforms. This series of election-related discussions continued to improve EISA's profile and extend the reach of this series. Among the topics discussed at these events was "Role of Traditional Elders and Religious Leaders In Ensuring Women's Quota".

Recording campaign messages of political parties and independent candidates



TANZANIA

In 2020, EISA undertook a peace monitoring initiative supported by the European Union. This was based on digital collection, analysis and the aggregation of data collected from the field before, during and after the elections. Findings from the robust scrutiny of the environment in which the 2020 general elections took place were then used as evidence to encourage the need for reforms in the post-election period. EISA partnered with three local civil society organisations to recruit, train and deploy election observers and peace monitors to observe the general elections on 28 October 2020 that included both the mainland and Zanzibar.



IMPACT STORY



Innovative collection of observer data introduced

Traditional civil society election-related observation and monitoring of the political environment in Tanzania has been a manual process. It was based on observer reporting forms that had to be physically distributed and collected before data could be transcribed for aggregation and analysis. Using the EISA Popola system, EISA was able to revolutionise the way non-state actors could collect, collate, and interpret information collected from the field in near real-time. This involved co-created digital reporting templates, the procurement and formatting of reporting tablets, and training on how to access and use the digital platform.

Thus 3 881 peace monitors were deployed across 34 regions forming reporting teams that would submit daily reports, over a period of 15 days, before, during and after the 2020 general elections. The adopted methodology of assessing the political environment around the elections allowed local partners to pronounce on the 2020 elections in real time. As a result, the information collected was used to initiate dialogue platforms between civil society and political parties and the government in Tanzania. Based on information collected, EISA's local partners were able to contribute towards setting up a post-election agenda for democracy in Tanzania.



Training in session: EISA's Ms Noxolo Gwal, EISA Assistant Programme Officer, introducing the EISA Popola system to members of Tanzania's civil society in October 2020

HIGHLIGHTS



EISA CSOs influence peaceful election

Following a tense pre-election environment, EISA supported civil society organisations and religious leaders in Tanzania to urge all political parties and other stakeholder to observe justice and peace during the general elections of 2020. This was one of the very few local calls and was made during a leaders' meeting under the umbrella of Interfaith Tanzania where human rights and community participation in elections were discussed. The initiative is credited with influencing President Magufuli to commit to peaceful elections on the eve of the elections.

The Centre for International Policy Election Observer Mission deployed to conduct long- and short-term observation in Tanzania 2020



Post-election dialogue forum

The church and civil society in Tanzania, supported by EISA, convened a post-election dialogue forum to commemorate International Human Rights Day on 10 December 2021. The platform was used to recommend ways to address human rights concerns relating to the recently concluded 2020 general elections. The discussion set the pace for post-election dialogue on electoral reforms in Tanzania. Stakeholders present included former prime minister the Hon. Judge Joseph Warioba and a representative of the inspector general of the police. It was resolved that election observation and peace monitoring findings and recommendations be shared with government, political parties, Parliament, the National Election Commission and the Zanzibar Electoral Commission.

Mapping a way forward: Post-election dialogue in Dar es Salaam held on International Human Rights Day 2020. The theme was "Recover for Better; Standing up for Human Rights"



Zanzibar youth receive training

In Zanzibar, EISA supported the Zanzibar Fighting Against Youth Challenges Organisation (ZAFAYCO) to recruit, train, accredit, and deploy 11 long term observers and 50 short term observers. They were to observe the 2020 general elections covering all constituencies in Zanzibar, an effort they had not embarked on independently previously. The initiative was aimed at strengthening democratic processes in the island, given previous political and election challenges. While ZAFAYCO did not use the EISA Popola system to document their observation findings, the exercise contributed to their securing a post-election memorandum of understanding with the Commission for Human Rights and Good Governance in Zanzibar that supports the implementation of electoral reforms.

Observers in Zanzibar receiving training ahead of deployment in October 2020



ZIMBABWE



EISA's programme in Zimbabwe is geared towards enhancing the capacity of the Zimbabwe Electoral Commission (ZEC) in public outreach and developing an innovative election cycle management tool. In the face of the restrictions imposed by COVID-19, EISA showed resilience towards ensuring continuous support by identifying different approaches that could assist ZEC in regard to its engagement with electoral stakeholders and the continuously changing environment brought about by the pandemic.

IMPACT STORY



Enhancing Election Management Collaboration with Civil Society on Voter Education

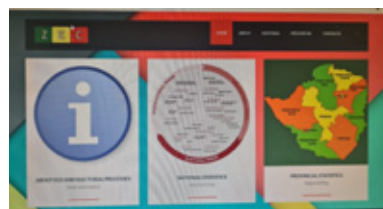
In an endeavour to increase the awareness of voters of their democratic rights and ensuring that all potential voters, including women, minorities, and people with disabilities, have access to information during the expected by-elections, EISA supported ZEC's efforts in holding pre-delimitation consultations between ZEC and CSOs on the development of a voter education campaign portfolio for the delimitation exercise for the 2023 elections. The development of the delimitation campaign materials entailed engaging with CSOs for their input on the content of the materials, developing effective communication methods

and strategies, designing gender-sensitive and inclusive messages, as well as reviewing the content. By supporting a platform for CSOs to input into the content of the voter education material, EISA contributed to building local voter education capacity. Collaborations between CSOs and ZEC were in line with regional and continental best practice normative frameworks which suggest that while the state and an EMB bears principal responsibility for voter education, the opportunity for civil society to contribute to voter education efforts should exist.



Zec and CSOs representatives during the Voter education material development workshop

HIGHLIGHTS



Election Cycle Dashboard landing page

The development of Election Management Tool

EISA supported the development of an Election Cycle Dashboard (ECD) aimed at strengthening ZEC's planning and coordination of different facets of the election cycle. The ECD tool provides static and dynamic information, serving as both a knowledge management platform and as a live monitoring tool for the Commission to gauge delivery of activities and allow access to accurate and relevant information internally and to its stakeholders.



ZEC COVID-19 Electoral Policy Cover page

ZEC Covid-19 Electoral Policy

In response to the COVID 19 pandemic, ZEC developed the COVID-19 Electoral Policy meant to guide procedures and conduct of electoral activities in a COVID-19 prone environment. EISA reviewed the policy and assisted with the printing of 5000 copies that were disseminated to various electoral stakeholders. The electoral policy guidelines apply to pandemics in general and will, therefore, have a long-term use beyond.



Recording campaign messages of political parties and independent candidates

ZEC-Media and Election reporting skills training workshop

EISA supported a media training workshop on election reporting hosted by the Zimbabwe Electoral Commission. It was the first face-to-face training in the post-2018 electoral process and a direct outcome of EISA's technical support to the stakeholder collaboration by the Zimbabwe Electoral Commission (ZEC). Besides enhancing participant's understanding of the delimitation process and by-election procedures, the training also contributed towards improved working relations between the ZEC and the media and promote accurate and balanced reporting by providing a platform of engagement and learning. To ensure the health safety of participants, 34 participants, of which 11 were women attended, observing full COVID-19 protocols.

CONSULTANCY SERVICES

Balloting & Electoral Services



The broad objective of EISA's Balloting and Electoral Services Unit (BES) is to promote a culture of democracy, and also build the confidence of organisations and their beneficiaries in democratic electoral practices as an essential component of good governance, in themselves and society in general. BES enhances the credibility and legitimacy of organisational elections by providing independent and impartial electoral administration, management, and consultancy services. During this period BES offered clients the opportunity for e-voting as an alternative to manual voting, and in so doing ensured that elections could be conducted rather than postponed due to concerns related to the COVID-19 pandemic. This also introduced clients to using technology in the electoral process.

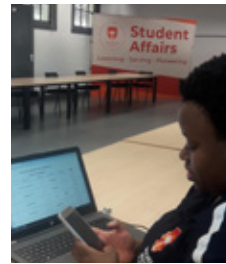
IMPACT STORY



University of South Africa (UNISA) 2020 SRC online nominations and e-voting

The University of South Africa, a recurring client, contracted EISA to deploy and support a fully integrated technical solution in conducting the UNISA Student Representative Council (SRC) 2020 elections. The BES electronic nominations and voting platform provided both hardware and software to meet the related voting requirements of online voting and SMS voting for 350 000 students. BES's brief included reporting to the UNISA Independent Electoral Body (IEB) and presenting the online nomination and voting system to student structures in seven provinces. UNISA contracted an auditing firm to audit the BES online voting system prior to the nominations and voting phases, and presented a system opening and shut down audit review. There were 53 000 registered students who successfully cast their e-votes for student leaders of their choice across all provinces. The method reduced long lines and the potential conflict at polling stations and allowed for successful SRC elections during the pandemic.

HIGHLIGHTS



The outgoing Sol Plaatje SRC Chairperson casting her electronic vote for the first time



Counting manual and electronic ballots in the presence of Bestmed internal auditors underway at the EISA Johannesburg office



SAMWU voting delegates being briefed on election procedures

Sol Plaatje University 2020 SRC e-voting

The COVID-19 pandemic and subsequent lockdown restrictions in South Africa necessitated tertiary institutions to review how they conduct elections. The Sol Plaatje University based in Kimberley, Northern Cape, conducted online SRC elections for the first time. EISA successfully conducted e-voting over two days in November. This allowed students who were widespread to participate remotely in the SRC elections and embrace electronic voting.

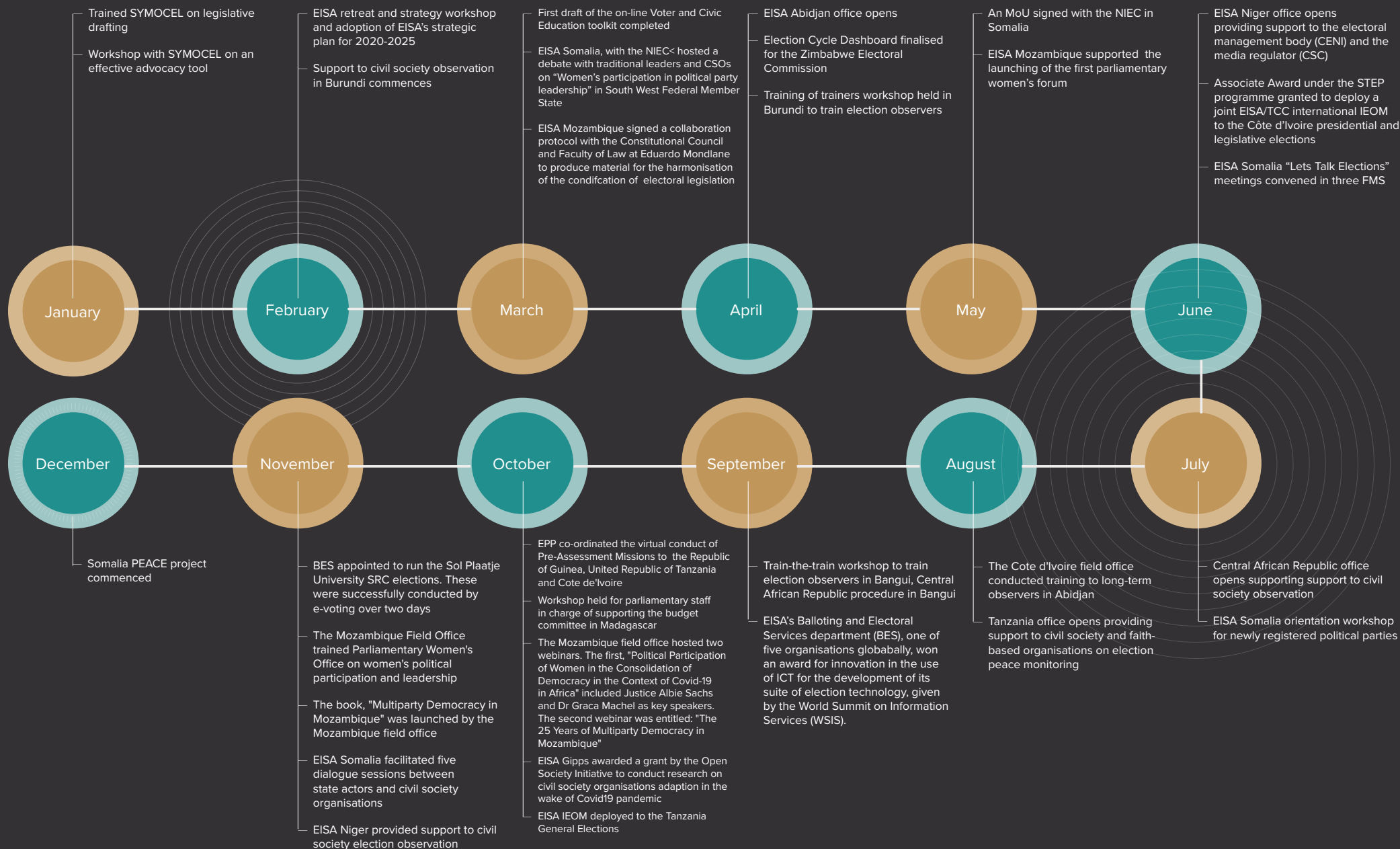
Bestmed Medical Scheme 2020 Board of Trustees

BES applied its suite of technological tools to provide eligible Bestmed members with several methods enabling them to cast their vote during the extended lockdown period. Eligible members without access to the internet, email or a cell phone number could cast a postal vote for individual member representatives through the South African Post Office. Those with access to the internet, email and/or cell phones could vote via SMS/Unstructured Supplementary Service Data (USSD), a dedicated email address and fax number, and via a link on the EISA online voting platform.

South African Municipal Workers' Union (SAMWU) National Elective

SAMWU is a trade union with the objective of promoting the rights of all those employed directly or indirectly in local authorities. Four hundred and twenty-five voting delegates elected national office bearers through on-site manual voting during the extended lockdown period in the country. EISA deployed a team of electoral officials at the congress venue in the North West province, where strict COVID-19 protocols were applied.

KEY EVENTS



PUBLICATIONS



The Journal of African Elections

Vol 19 No 1 Jun 2020

Vol 19 No 2 Oct 2020



Pre-Election Assessment Mission Reports



EISA Mozambique Policy Briefs



EISA STAFF 2020

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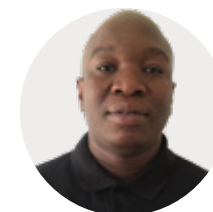
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Thapelo Maboko
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Florent Kabongo
Resident Director



ELECTIONS + POLITICAL PROCESSES (EPP)



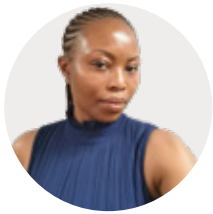
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Transitions Specialist

EISA BURUNDI



Baidessou Soukolgue

Resident Country Director



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EISA Regional Finance & Administration Manager



Wahida Samate

Training Officer and Programme Support

Evra Brou and Samate work from the regional office in Abidjan until EISA is given authorisation to open an office. Evra Brou also supports the EISA regional office as Finance and Administration Officer

EISA CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC



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Oumar Doumbia

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Koffi Yao Alexandre

Receptionist

EISA DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO



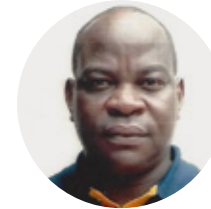
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Team leader/Country director



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(until Nov 2020)*



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Eder Bruno Marina
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Jose Cossa
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ELECTORAL COMMISSION (CENI) & CONSEIL SUPÉRIEUR DE LA COMMUNICATION (CSC)



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(from August 2020)*



Kadiatou Toure
Finance and Administration Officer



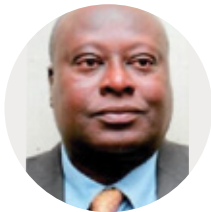
Rouafi Gagara
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Gorko Oumarou
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Bintou Moussa Kaka
Finance and Administration assistant



Rufin Godjo
Logistics and Operatons Officer



Ibrahim Garba Tonko
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Boubacar Tahirou
Janitor



Idryss Katenga Mulolwa
Project Director



Clarisse Katuala
Finance and Administration Officer



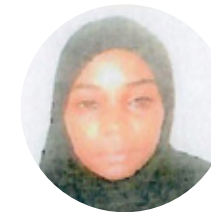
Bakary Sidibe
Electoral Expert



Djeri Akpo
Electoral Expert



Barira Boubabacar
Programme Officer



El Hadj Mahamat Taher Maimouna
Assistant Accountant

COALITION FOR CITIZEN OBSERVATION OF ELECTIONS IN NIGER

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Mukenyi Badibanga

Country Director



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*Governance Officer, Galmudug State
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Resident Country Representative



Thapelo Maboko

*Finance and Administration Manager (TESD)
(from Oct 2020)*

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Antonetta Hamandishe

Programme Officer



Gamuchirai Matsheza

Finance & Administration Officer



Tawandira Chinengundu

Driver



Maria Matogo

Housekeeper



DONORS

DAI Europe Ltd

Foreign Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO)

European Union (EU)

Finn Church Aid – Somalia (FCA)

Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs (NMFA)

Open Society Initiative of Southern Africa (OSISA)

Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC)

Swedish International Development Co-operation Agency (Sida)

United States Agency International Development (USAID)

University of Michigan

National Democratic Institute (NDI)

Embassy of France



FINANCIAL REPORT

Statement of financial position as at 31 December 2019

	2020 R	2019 R
ASSETS	110 603 469	51 325 873
Non-current assets	7 746 500	8 125 851
Property and equipment	7 746 500	8 125 851
Current assets	102 856 970	43 200 022
Trade and other receivables	6 797 450	3 507 934
Accrued income - grants	24 294 520	16 298 807
Cash and cash equivalents	71 765 000	23 393 281
TOTAL ASSETS	110 603 469	51 325 873
RESERVES AND LIABILITIES	110 603 469	51 325 873
Accumulated fund	741 277	16 610 587
Operating fund	877 852	2 244 955
Unrealised foreign currency reserve	(3 559 443)	4 727 799
Retrenchment fund	1 064 376	5 692 818
Revaluation reserve fund	2 358 493	3 422 869
Sustainability reserve fund	-	522 146
Current liabilities	109 862 192	34 715 286
Trade and other payables	13 659 030	2 715 896
Deferred income - grants	93 270 161	23 531 561
Provision for leave pay	421 894	780 865
Provision - general	914 205	5 879 297
Amounts refundable	1 596 902	1 807 666
TOTAL RESERVES AND LIABILITIES	51 325 873	51 325 873

Statement of comprehensive income for the year ended 31 December 2020

	2020 R	2019 R
Income	185 260 182	185 260 182
Gross profit on services	2 733 190	6 065 235
Consulting income	4 449 084	8 970 802
Less: direct expenses	(1 715 894)	(2 905 567)
Grants	197 927 832	178 050 178
Interest received	93 577	573 736
Foreign exchange gain	2 372 158	13 272
Rent received	527 131	568 563
Sundry income	1 032 004	25 198
Expenditure	212 267 959	186 253 123
Operating expenses	8 191 447	6 416 637
Salaries and contributions	33 178 349	28 002 892
Project expenses	170 898 163	151 833 594
(Deficit) for the year	(7 582 067)	(992 941)
Other Comprehensive Income	(8 287 243)	(1 902 773)
Foreign exchange gains on foreign bank accounts	(8 287 243)	(1 902 773)
Total Comprehensive (Loss)	(15 869 309)	(2 895 714)



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