

Annual Report

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Who we are

EISA is a **not-for-profit organisation** promoting credible elections and sustainable democracies in Africa.

The Electoral Institute for Sustainable Democracy in Africa (EISA) is a registered not-for-profit organisation established in South Africa since 1996, then known as the Electoral Institute of South Africa.

The organisation is headquartered in Johannesburg, South Africa, with a regional office in Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire and has a multi-lingual staff component of English, French, Arabic and Portuguese speakers across its field offices.

Much of EISA's early work also contributed conflict monitoring, mediation, and mitigation strategies around elections. These early experiences have been highly beneficial in allowing EISA to continue this work in many other post-conflict and transitional spaces. The organisation's programmatic scope naturally adapted to activities beyond elections to areas of the democratic and good governance support. It also broadened its coverage to encompass the whole of Africa.

Our Vision

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

Our Mission

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

Our Impact

**28****Years of Experience****8****Current Offices****200****Missions Supported****2,000****Publications**

To date, **EISA has been involved in hundreds of electoral processes in Africa.** It has also conducted projects and programmes aimed at enhancing the institutional capacity of electoral management bodies (EMBs), political parties, parliaments, and national and local governments.

Additionally, EISA works closely with organised civil society to enhance its participation in democratic processes.

EISA has become an internationally recognised centre for policy, research, information, and technical assistance. With its multilingual staff and field offices across the continent, EISA is strategically placed to play a key role to advance democracy on the continent. EISA is widely recognised for its effective and efficient programmes.

At sub-regional and regional levels, the Institute has built strong and effective partnerships with key Pan-African bodies, namely the African Union Commission (AUC) and the Pan African Parliament (PAP) as well as Regional Economic Communities, such as EAC, ECCAS, ECOWAS, ICGLR and SADC

The strategic choice to provide technical assistance to these organisations has strengthened their capacity to assess elections as well as supporting a sustainable democratic development in Africa.

EISA has been able to bring African perspectives to the international discourse on democracy building and to contribute to the global definition of problems, and the shaping of solutions.

EISA's programmatic approach is focused on two main areas of work, namely elections and governance. Its Elections and Political Processes (EPP) programme focuses on supporting regional, sub-regional and national stakeholders to foster inclusive, peaceful, and credible elections. In this regard, **EISA provides support to inter-governmental bodies, civil society and electoral commissions through election assessment and electoral assistance initiatives.** Its governance programmes work towards strengthening governance institutions in their mandate to promote open, inclusive and democratic societies. The Governance Institutions and Political Processes (GIPPS) programme provides support to political parties, parliaments, civil society, and other relevant government institutions. These interventions are implemented through applied research, capacity building and training and academic research, analysis, and publishing •

Board of Directors

EISA's board of directors consists of a diverse group of experts in the field of African elections and good governance from a wide array of backgrounds, including academia, government and non-governmental organisations, & Business.



**Dr. Roukaya
Kasenally**



**Mr. Baïdessou
Soukolgué**



**Dr. Tadjoudine
Ali-Diabacté**



**Ms. Charlotte
Kesson-Smith**



Ms. Martha Chizuma



Prof. John Stremlau



Prof. Tom Lodge

Chairperson's Message

*Conflict, instability and insecurity deepened in 2023 as the Israel - Palestine crises added to the Ukraine - Russia war. **This state of affairs had important ramifications for the whole world and in particular Africa.** For example, a number of African countries suffered due to their grain dependency on Ukraine and Russia.*

Dr. Roukaya Kasenally

Democratic backsliding added to an already grim world caused by war, climate change and the rise in nationalism. Africa witnessed two additional coup d'états in 2023 adding to those started in 2020 and in the process 'consolidating' the coup belt and fragilising the people of that region. This no doubt cast a bleak cloud on citizen's trust in elections, questioned the integrity and independence of key institutions such as electoral commissions, media and the judiciary. Even the so-called good students in Africa such as Mauritius and Botswana showed signs of autocratic tendencies. Despite this, there was a demand for democracy by African citizens and that they cared and were ready to mobilise for it (International IDEA Global State of Democracy 2023).

2023 witnessed key elections in Niger, the Democratic Republic of Congo and Liberia.

In Liberia, EISA operated a programme on 'Assessing Integrity of the Liberian 2023 Election'. In fact, EISA continues to offer technical support to the AU and RECs when it comes to Election Observation Missions (EOMs). It should be noted that EISA has developed an extremely innovative technology called Popola aimed at improving real time data collection and analysis during EOMs.

As EISA moves towards its 30th anniversary (2026), a number of mechanisms have been initiated to consolidate the organisation's system of checks and balances such as the setting up in 2023 of an Audit, Risk and Compliance Committee where three external experts / professionals sit on the Committee. **Fund raising continues to remain one of the cornerstone features of EISA's strategy.** Although access to funds has become not only more competitive but also more sparse (due to the ongoing crisis and wars) - **funding democracy remains important for donors and governments especially with the rise of autocratic regimes.** EISA will continue to develop strategic and common partnerships with some of the other key institutions based in Africa and beyond to ensure that democratic consolidation remains a common goal.

2023 was unfortunately marked by sad news as one of EISA's board member - Professor Tom Lodge passed away. Tom was a long time trusted friend of EISA and supported the organisation in its early stages - he was a fine intellectual and a strong believer in Africa's potential for change. Tom will be sorely missed.

I would like to extend my thanks and gratitude to all the donors (new and ongoing) that believe and support the work done by EISA. EISA would not be what it is without its dedicated staff that often stretch themselves to make EISA a truly Pan African organisation that ensures that democracy continues to matter •

EISA has developed an extremely innovative technology called Popola aimed at improving real time data collection and analysis during EOMs.



Director's Message

*There is an alarming trend gripping the African continent. Since 2020, there have been nine coups d'état in West Africa, Central Africa and East Africa. **Weak governance processes have often failed African citizens, leaving them with a diminished sense of trust in their leaders and the democratic processes that placed them in positions of power.***

Baïdessou Soukolgué

The civil war that has been raging in Sudan since 15 April 2023 and the coup d'état in Niger on 26 July 2023 remind us as an organisation, now more than ever, of the need to remain adaptable and agile in our interventions. **Elections are foundational to democracy, but they are by no means the only support EISA can provide in strengthening democratic culture and processes on the continent.** Going forward, we will need to develop a more global approach to our projects, so that the postponement or impossibility of holding elections in a particular context and within the prescribed time frame does not limit the positive impacts towards developing or consolidating democracy where we are working. This will require EISA leaders and their teams to be proactive both in analysing the context, determining how EISA can best pivot activities when necessary, and maintaining constructive lines of communication with our partners.

Partnerships are a vital component of the success of EISA's work on the continent. In 2023, the Institute has stayed the course by assuming its position as a privileged partner of continental and sub-regional organisations, to which it has continued to provide substantial and diversified technical support. In this context, the memorandum of understanding with the African Union (AU) was renewed and another was signed with the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA). At continental level, EISA launched a new EU funded project in support of the African Union in partnership with the International Institute for Democracy and Electoral Assistance (International IDEA).

At the sub-regional level, EISA launched the fifth phase of its Sida funded project named Africa Democracy Strengthening (ADS V), with the main beneficiaries being the Regional Economic Communities (ECOWAS, ECCAS, EAC, SADC). At national level, the Institute has reopened its offices in Gabon and Tanzania. It has also launched a new project in Madagascar and laid the groundwork for other Southern African projects in 2024. EISA hopes to consolidate its position and achievements in these countries and work towards launching new projects, particularly in Central, West and Southern Africa.

Programmatic success requires a well-functioning organisation that holds itself to the highest ethical and operational standards.

During the course of 2023, EISA conducted a comprehensive review of its policies, tools and procedures with a view to advancing organisational development. The Financial and Human Resources policies and procedures compendiums have been updated to reflect current organisational needs and international best practice. As part of these reviews, EISA began the process of implementing measures towards the 'Prevention of sexual exploitation, abuse and harassment' (PSEAH) as well as measures towards effective gender mainstreaming in programmatic interventions. EISA has also established a more comprehensive approach to countering fraud and corruption though new whistle blowing processes. The institutional communication strategy, initiated in 2022, was developed with the view to increasing the visibility of the work that EISA does on the continent.

Partnerships are a vital component of the success of EISA's work on the continent.

In 2023, the Institute has stayed the course by assuming its position as a privileged partner of continental and sub-regional organisations

Despite the daunting geopolitical and geostrategic context, **the Institute continues to enjoy the confidence and support of its main financial partners,** notably the European Union (EU), the Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO), the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) and the Swedish International Development Agency (Sida).

To this end, a new website was launched, and social media presence was expanded. By the end of 2023, EISA had already seen a significant increase in the reach of knowledge products produced by EISA and its various partners.

Despite the daunting geopolitical and geostrategic context, the Institute continues to enjoy the confidence and support of its main financial partners, notably the European Union (EU), the Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO), the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) and the Swedish International Development Agency (Sida). It intends to maintain this trust through the continued delivery of impactful quality activities and its ability to adapt its programmes and projects to the changing context in which it operates.

I would like to take this opportunity to express the Institute's gratitude to our donors and partners for their continued support. To our implementing partners of our various programmes and projects across the continent, you have our profound thanks for your support and commitment to our shared goal of good democratic governance in Africa. Together we are working, and together we will continue to work to strengthen democratic achievements, human rights and citizen participation in public life. As always, we are committed to achieving the committed results to the best of our abilities.

I would also like to express my gratitude to our staff, whose dedication to the Institute is clear to see. The professionalism of each and every one of them is our biggest asset. To the Board of Directors and its Chairperson, Dr Roukaya, I would like to reiterate my gratitude for their multi-faceted support and their assistance during the review of the tools required for the smooth running of the Institute●



Message of thanks for Prof John Stremlau

Following years of passionate service to the organisation, EISA thanks and bids farewell to Prof John Stremlau as he steps down from the EISA Board of Directors.

John Stremlau is Honorary Professor, International Relations, at the University of the Witwatersrand in Johannesburg, South Africa. He served from January 2006 until January 2015 as vice president for peace programs at The Carter Center, where he oversaw the Center's programs to advance human rights, democracy, and conflict resolution globally; regional cooperation in the Americas; and promotion of grassroots democracy, rule of law, and social justice in China. From 1998 to 2006, he resided in South Africa where he was Jan Smuts Professor, Head of the International Relations Department, and the founding director of the Centre for Africa's International Relations at the University of the Witwatersrand.

Previously, he served as senior adviser to the Carnegie Commission on Preventing Deadly Conflict in Washington,

D.C. (1994-1998), deputy director for policy planning in the office of the U.S. Secretary of State (1989-1994), strategic planning officer for the World Bank (1988-1989), and an officer of the Rockefeller Foundation (1974-1987), directing its international relations division from 1984-1987. Dr. Stremlau publishes extensively on foreign affairs and is a frequent media commentator on international network news programs. He authored "The International Politics of the Nigerian Civil War" and edited several books.

Prof Stremlau brought years of experience in the field of elections and democracy – together with his warm and charismatic manner – to the EISA leadership. We are profoundly grateful for the years of service and friendship to EISA.●

Tribute to Prof Tom Lodge

*The EISA Board Chairperson, Dr Roukaya Kasenally, the EISA Executive Director, Mr Baidessou Soukolgue, the Journal of African Elections (JAE) Editor Mr Denis Kadima, EISA staff and the JAE editorial board **note with deep sadness the passing of Professor Tom Lodge on Wednesday 8 November 2023, and extended their heartfelt condolences to his family.***



It is an honour to have had **Professor Lodge as part of EISA's development since its inception.** During his time at the organisation, he has worn many hats - as friend, colleague, advisor, scholar, mentor and finally, board member. In whatever role we knew him, he was always kind, measured, humble, principled and deeply committed to the development of African democracies.

During EISA's formative years, he provided encouragement and advice and in 1999 spent a year as an internal advisor, directing, guiding and contributing to EISA's South African election-based research, analysis and publications. Publications include handbooks on election regulations and laws covering South Africa, Tanzania and Zimbabwe, amongst others.

Professor Lodge's vast knowledge and thoughtful analysis have greatly enhanced the Journal of African Elections (JAE), joining as a founding member of the editorial board at the journal's inception in 2001. **His support to the JAE as a contributor and reviewer as well as ongoing advice regarding the JAE's policy and focus has been invaluable.** Always available for consultation, he provided wise advice and encouragement to nascent scholars. His contribution to the JAE will be sorely missed.

Since joining the EISA Board of Directors in 2010 Professor Lodge played an invaluable role, contributing to EISA's strategic vision and mission and responsiveness to the dynamic and changing election and governance environment on the African continent. His measured and thoughtful analysis was greatly appreciated by the Board Chairperson, Executive Director and staff, contributing to EISA's relevance and enabling EISA to make a meaningful impact in its work and partnerships developed over many years. Professor Lodge's contribution to the academic community is well documented and he was always generous in sharing this extensive knowledge with EISA.

Professor Lodge's contribution to EISA, as well as to the global election community, is immeasurable, as was his compassion and understanding of the challenges that emerging democracies face, and how best they can be responded to. EISA has been privileged to have had the benefit of Professor Lodge's support. Never dogmatic or condescending, Professor Tom Lodge kept to a moral compass worthy of emulation. Keeping his memory alive seems the greatest compliment colleagues and friends can make to a man who touched so many lives ●

Executive & Support Staff

Executive and Operations



Baïdessou Soukolgué
Executive Director



Melanie Meirotti
Research & Quality Assurance Manager



Zahira Seedat
Office coordinator



Samira Ble Gnagale N'guessan
Programme Assistant



Ivy Pillay
Receptionist

ICT and Website



Marie Reyneke
Librarian



Michael Molefe
Senior Library & Publications Clerk



Thembelani Mazibuko
Senior Website Researcher



Irene Sekamogeng
ICT Coordinator

Executive & Support Staff

Finance



Drake Orurach
Head of Finance



Dipti Bava
Senior Accountant



Usha Kala
Senior Bookkeeper



Tuelo Molope
Bookkeeper



Nthabiseng Botipe
Payroll Administration
Officer



Nils Dallo
Finance Officer &
Administration

Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning



Tokologo Ramodibe
MEL Programme
Assistant

EISA Head office

South Africa

The EISA Johannesburg office **provides strategic, programmatic, operational, financial, and administrative support to all the organisation's field offices and projects.**

The EISA Office in Johannesburg has a long history of supporting civil society, political parties, and governmental and inter-governmental institutions.

Complementing EISA's regional office based in Abidjan, the Johannesburg office works towards stronger democratic processes and systems with a focus on the Southern and East Africa regions.



EISA Regional office

Cote d'Ivoire

Through its regional office for West and Central Africa, based in Abidjan, Cote d'Ivoire, **EISA is able to build local networks, deliver context, demand driven interventions that are specific to the needs and nuances of the sub-region and provide appropriate and timely support to this effect.**

EISA's programmes and interventions in the Central and West African sub-regions work towards addressing challenges around democratic consolidation in transitional political contexts.



The organisation's programmatic approach is focused on two broad areas of work, namely elections and good governance.



EPP

The Elections & Political Processes (EPP) programme at EISA focuses on supporting regional, sub-regional and national stakeholders to foster inclusive, peaceful, and credible elections.

In this regard, EISA provides support to inter-governmental bodies, civil society and electoral commissions through election assessment and electoral assistance initiatives.



GIPPS

EISA's governance programmes work towards strengthening governance institutions in their mandate to promote open, inclusive and democratic societies.

The Governance Institutions and Political Processes (GIPPS) programme provides support to political parties, parliaments, civil society, and other relevant government institutions. These interventions are implemented through applied research, capacity building and training and academic research, analysis, and publishing.

EPP



The Elections and Political Processes (EPP) department works towards supporting regional, sub-regional and national stakeholders to foster inclusive, peaceful, and credible elections.

This is done through conducting independent election observation and providing technical support to inter-governmental bodies, civil society and electoral commissions through election assessment and electoral assistance initiatives.

In 2023 EPP provided technical support to the African Union (AU) and other

Regional Economic Communities (RECs) in supporting democratic processes within their respective member states. EPP supported the AUEOMs deployed in Nigeria, Sierra Leone, Zimbabwe, Eswatini, Liberia and the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC). The Programme also conducted in-country refresher trainings for Southern Africa Development Community (SADC) countries holding elections, particularly in Zimbabwe, Eswatini, Madagascar and the DRC. To improve the quality of election observation, EPP conducted a pool training for AU observers in Morocco and in South Africa for SADC. These trainings create a pool of trained observers from which the organisations can draw from during elections. EPP also concluded the final phase of training of South Africa domestic observers, aimed at equipping them to effectively observe the upcoming 2024 elections in South Africa. As a technical partner, EISA offered organisational support to the annual ECONEC symposium and the annual EMBs forum.

EPP

Biggest impact story of 2023



The EPP in collaboration with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and Independent Electoral Commission of South Africa (IEC) deployed observers to a bench-marking learning mission to the 23 August 2023 Zimbabwe harmonised elections. The study tour was composed of eight participants who were deployed in pairs, supported by an EISA technical staff member to four provinces in Zimbabwe.

During deployment to the provinces, the observers were exposed to the pre-election activities including consultations with key stakeholders regarding the level of preparedness to hold the elections and the delivery of election materials. The group also attended the final campaigns by different political parties and the joint press conference where preliminary reports by various election observer groups (African Union, Southern African Development Community and Electoral Commissions Forum of SADC Countries) were released.

This exercise allowed the South African observers to experience the conduct of press conferences, reporting, and the recommendation formulation methodology. Finally, a report drafting session was held together with observers to expose observers to the exercise and technique of drafting election observation reports.

EISA believes that the CSOs will use the lessons learned in their home countries to make critical contributions to improving the quality of the electoral processes. By observing the electoral processes of organisation and conduct, monitoring, reporting and documenting election related violence and educating citizens about elections and the importance of participating in the country's democratic processes and advocate for electoral reform •

Project Results

Technical support to the African Union (AU)

[View Project →](#)

Support to SADC (EOMs, LTO and in country refresher trainings)

[View Project →](#)

Support to the Economic Community of Central Africa States (ECCAS) EOM

[View Project →](#)

Lesson sharing towards stronger election networks and administration

[View Project →](#)

AU Meeting of the Advisory Panel on Democracy & Elections- Mauritius

[View Project →](#)

Technical support to the IEC/UNDP Citizen Observer trainings

[View Project →](#)



Baïdessou Soukolgué
Interim Head of EPP



Naphtaly Sekamogeng
Senior Programme Officer



Lenny Taabu
Programme Officer



Mmapitsi Raphala
Senior Programme Assistant



Sandile Khuboni
Assistant Programme Officer
GIPPs & EPP

EPP

Technical support to the African Union (AU)

In 2023, EPP continued its technical support to the AU through support to AU member states democratic processes. In this regard, EPP supported the AUEOMs in Nigeria, Sierra Leone, Zimbabwe, Eswatini, Liberia and the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC).

To improve the quality of election observation, EPP conducted a training for AU observers in Morocco. The objective of this training was to create a 'pool' of trained observers from which the AU can draw for future elections ●



EPP

Support to SADC (EOMs, LTO and in country refresher trainings)



In anticipation of SADC's election assessment of several polls in the Southern African region in 2023, EISA increased the knowledge and capacity of 75 long-term observers. The training was developed and delivered in line with the Revised SADC Principles and Guidelines Governing Democratic Elections and the SADC Long Term Election Observer Training Manual to ensure continued capacity and professionalism of observation in the SADC region. Furthermore, this training aimed at increasing SADC's pool of observers to call on to be deployed in the region in 2023 - particularly in Zimbabwe, Eswatini, Mozambique, DRC and Madagascar. The 6-day training was conducted by three EISA staff members and participants were drawn from the SADC secretariat, SEAC members and participants from member states.

Additionally, EISA provided support to SADC election observation missions to Zimbabwe, Eswatini, Madagascar and DRC, strengthening the requisite skills of observers to undertake their duties efficiently and in line with the code of conduct in these elections ●

EPP

Support to the Economic Community of Central Africa States (ECCAS) EOM

EPP provided technical support to the ECCAS EOM to the DRC general elections on 20 December 2023. The elections in the DRC took place in an environment that is fraught with complexities, making it imperative that observers acquired the required skills and capacity for professional observation. The support provided included a pre-deployment briefing for the observers, stakeholders' engagement, the development of a carefully considered deployment plan as well as report drafting ●



EPP

Lesson sharing towards stronger election networks and administration



EPP supported the ECONEC in the organisation of its symposium held from 20-21 November 2023 in Abidjan/Cote d'Ivoire, themed: institutionalising lesson-learning processes for improved electoral administration across the sub-region. The symposium was aimed at empowering EMBs to take action towards promoting effective stakeholder engagement and participation as shared through lessons learned. Participants also engaged in discussions around technical support for EMBs and the need for EMBs to understand their own internal needs, thus allowing for more targeted and effective donor assistance to EMBs nationally as well as regionally.

EISA's EPP programme further supported EMBs through strengthened relationships between EMBS and relevant stakeholders at the annual continental forum of EMBs (Association of African Electoral Authorities) held from 1st to 2nd November 2023 in Cotonou/Benin.

During EISA's participation at the annual Declaration of Principles (DoP) meeting in 2023 it moderated a session focused on the Experiences of Heads of mission and chief observers. Discussions revolved around ways and means of further reforming their roles with a view to fundamental optimization of EOMs. Discussions also revolved around how better to focus technical assistance to facilitate heads of mission to achieve their mandates - with a view to consolidating the transparency of electoral processes - and how these mission heads should conduct themselves during the electoral processes in a manner that is constructive without giving the impression of interfering in the internal affairs of host States •

EPP

AU Meeting of the Advisory Panel on Democracy & Elections- Mauritius



EPP contributed to the Second Consultative Meeting and Retreat of the AU Advisory Panel on Democratic Governance, organised by the AU from 14 to 17 August 2023 in Mauritius. The meeting brought together electoral stakeholders to formalise and undertake a comprehensive and rigorous evaluation and profound reappraisal of the existing election observation methodology to enhance the methodologies employed to ensure their utmost efficacy and relevance. The overall outcome of the meeting was a harmonised, efficient, and adaptable framework, facilitating observers in fulfilling their fundamental roles with the highest level of effectiveness ●

EPP

Technical support to the IEC/UNDP Citizen Observer trainings



EISA, in partnership with the Independent Electoral Commission (IEC) of South Africa and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), embarked on a training project aimed at enhancing the capacity of South African citizen observers in the lead up to the 2024 National and Provincial elections. The training project aims to contribute to more effective and professional election observation. During the training, a core group of South African citizen observers from all nine of South Africa's provinces were introduced to the general principles and methodology of election observation. This partnership with the IEC achieved its outcomes of improving knowledge, expertise and efficacy of South African citizen observers to assess elections. As a result, some of these trained observers will be deployed to observe elections in Zimbabwe and Mozambique in 2023. ●

STEP



The Supporting Transitions and Electoral Processes (STEP) programme aimed to achieve more inclusive, transparent, and accountable political and electoral processes in Africa, by drawing on and sharing lessons regionally.

Project Results

Civil society shares lessons on their role in political transitions and democratic resilience

[View Project →](#)

The finalisation of the review of the Principles on Election Management, Monitoring & Observation in the SADC region (PEMMO)

[View Project →](#)



Justin Doua Goré
Country Director



Drake Orurach
Finance Manager



Cécile Bassomo
Elections and Political
Transitions Specialist



Tokologo Ramodibe
Monitoring and
Evaluation Officer



The STEP Programme was supported by the **United States Agency for International Development (USAID)**.

STEP

Civil society shares lessons on their role in political transitions and democratic resilience



In March 2023, twenty-three civil society leaders from nine countries came together in Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire for a regional lesson-learning forum on the role of civil society in political transitions and democratic resilience. The discussions at the forum pointed to the need for a sustained but cautious engagement of civil society during periods of political transition – noting the importance of safeguarding the credibility and independence of CSOs.

The overall finding was reached through a series of discussions delving into three main areas: First, the discussions explored the role of civil society during and beyond political transitions in Coastal West Africa and the Sahel; Second, they engaged with challenges, lessons and opportunities for civil society's inclusion and participation in transitional processes as well as civil society's continued articulation of citizens' interests and aspirations beyond the transition period; Finally, the participants reflected on the challenges and impact of civil society's role in the protection and respect of human rights and the rule of law during the transition period and in the promotion of democratic norms, institutions, and accountability mechanisms following transitional elections.

Broadening access to civic and voter education

The Civic and Voter Education Toolkit was developed with the intention of contributing to better stakeholder knowledge on civic

and voter education. These resources are based on best practices shared in the civic and voter education guide. The guide and toolkit use content which speaks to current dynamics in the elections and democracy space, such as fake news and disinformation, and how this phenomenon affects educational campaigns. Using the digital CVE guide and tailoring the material to the local context, nineteen civic groups in Madagascar developed sensitisation strategies which were rolled out in nationwide campaigns (in all the 6 provinces and 119 municipalities) ahead of the Madagascar's 2023 presidential elections.

Augmenting the capacity of citizen observers to deliver on their oversight role.

Through the STEP project, a second toolkit was developed with the purpose of increasing the knowledge of citizen observer groups on election follow-up, and in turn, increase their capacity to better fulfil their oversight role. The Citizen Election Follow-up and Advocacy (CEFA) Toolkit is available online and in different languages to promote access to a wider audience. The membership includes users from Anglophone and Francophone African countries and beyond •

STEP

The finalisation of the review of the Principles on Election Management, Monitoring & Observation in the SADC region (PEMMO)



EISA, with the Electoral Commissions Forum of the Southern African Development Community (ECF-SADC), reviewed and updated the Principles on Election Management, Monitoring & Observation in the SADC region (PEMMO). The PEMMO was originally developed by the two organisations in 2003.

This revision included the development of new principles to respond to the evolving context - political, social, economic, technological - in which elections are held. The final Revised PEMMO, originally in English, was translated into French, Portuguese, and Swahili.

The four versions of the PEMMO were printed and are being disseminated throughout the SADC region and beyond through EISA and ECF-SADC and online. The revised PEMMO is expected to be a very effective stakeholder management tool in the hands of EMBs of the SADC region.



Central African Republic



EISA's aim is to **strengthen the role and contribution of civil society** in the organisation of credible, transparent, and inclusive local elections in the country, through advocacy for legal reforms, electoral and voter education, and citizen election observation.

Project Result Areas

Strengthening citizen influence on the national democratic and gender agenda

[View Project →](#)

Constitutional judges familiarised with local election dispute management

[View Project →](#)

Zebra lists to make parity law work effectively

[View Project →](#)

Marie Laure Digbeu
Country Director



Bakary Sidibe
Training and Programme
Officer International



Rosalie Kobo-Beth
National Programme Officer



Lisette Nday Toubila
National Finance and
Administration Assistant



EISA's work with civil society in CAR is made possible with the support of the **European Union**.



The **Reseau Arc en Ciel**, an umbrella of 15 civil society organisations, specializing in the promotion of democratic governance, human rights, women & marginalized citizen rights are a key beneficiary and implementing partner of the project.

Central African Republic

Strengthening citizen influence on the national democratic and gender agenda



With support from EISA, the Réseau Arc en Ciel has played a substantial role in the revision process of the electoral code in CAR in 2023. The group represented CAR's civil society in high level panels, alongside government and international institutions. The group has been combining proposals and advocacy for improvements of the election legal framework to enhance inclusive provisions that would enable women, men and the youth to compete in equitable conditions.

The participation of citizen groups in the electoral reform processes is an important milestone

The previous revision of the electoral code in CAR was held in 2019 and mainly carried out by the government and political actors. Military crises have affected CAR since 2003 and disrupted state institutions and social groups, thus reducing citizen capacity to act. The then post crisis context was a complex time during which CSOs were excluded from key transitional political initiatives and decision-making processes.

Since 2015, EISA has supported the emergence of a well-trained and active civil society in CAR, now able to participate, speak up, carry out professional election observation, civic and voter education and lead strong evidence-based advocacy actions on many relevant and priority issues, and contribute to the improvement of governance and public policies.

The support provided by EISA, with the funding of EU has enabled the 15 CSO members of the Réseau Arc en Ciel with the necessary technical and operational skills and approaches to participate in key electoral initiatives. The perspective of local elections in 2022 and 2023 was a good opportunity to make citizen voice heard. By creating momentum and the conditions for political will, the RAC and its citizen allies have obtained the government's commitment to place the issue of women's participation and political representation on the national agenda.

The Réseau Arc en Ciel has thus positioned civil society as a credible interlocutor for any process of institutional reforms linked to elections. Furthermore, the support through the partnership with EISA has led to interactions and collaboration between local partners and national and international institutions such as the ministry in charge of elections, the National Elections Authority, the Constitutional Council and United Nations agencies ●

Central African Republic

Constitutional judges familiarised with local election dispute management



Having not been held for 34 years (since 1988), the local government elections are a new experience for most voters, election management bodies and the Constitutional Court in CAR.

The country has 179 municipalities, and there are at least 10 000 lists that would be competing.

Considering the stakes in terms of inclusion and gender equality, ensuring that the judges that manage the disputes are sufficiently informed and trained on this process was imperative

EISA and the UN mission in CAR (MINUSCA) have supported training sessions for the 8 constitutional judges, as well as 150 court officers who will help the judges manage the electoral disputes.

Among other themes, CAR judges were able to hear a peer experience delivered by Professor Babakar Kante, former member of the Senegalese Constitutional court. In addition to issues of normative frameworks, the sessions dealt with the nature of the conflicts likely to arise in the CAR context and their potential underlying causes, and the jurisprudential resolution adopted in other African countries.

Many fundamental questions were raised and discussed, including: in the event of a normative gap, could public international law prevail and apply to domestic affairs; to what extent could the Constitutional Court in CAR combine formal and informal procedures to deal with exceptional circumstances and emergencies which impact peace and stability.

The workshop enabled the judges to review their legal, operational, or jurisprudential resolution mechanisms and consider different types of hypotheses. The sessions were highly appreciated by the attendants including the judges, managers of the national election authority, lawyers and attorney, university actors •

Central African Republic

Zebra lists to make parity law work effectively



The next Central African electoral code could be significant for the political representation of women in the country. The proposed zebra list system for municipal candidacies could lead to inclusive competing lists. The Réseau Arc en Ciel has been advocating for an amendment of the electoral code since 2022, proposing provisions stipulating that at least 50% of representatives on the lists of candidates for municipal elections should be women. This provision would also allow effective application of the Gender Parity Act, adopted in 2016, the enforcement of which remains low. Although the new code is not yet promulgated, it has gained the support of parliament. Until its promulgation, CSOs are working to overcome the reluctance within political parties. Opponents to the fifty-fifty agenda often put forward the weak presence of women in decision-making positions, and in the political landscape. In contrast, CSOs consider the local elections to be a historic occasion to give women and youth the opportunity to access municipal and regional councils and contribute to the local democratic and governance narrative.

For almost 10 years, the Parity Act and the issue of the political participation of women more generally has not benefited from significant mobilization or political will. The stagnant democratic process in the country that it has impacted the avenues available for bold changes. Strong social and economic barriers continue to contribute to masculine dominated political landscape

and practices, thus reducing opportunities and conditions for a participatory and inclusive political and electoral process. In addition, the internal democracy within political parties does not function in a way that gives space to women.

Out of 100 registered political parties, only one is led by a woman. The current Parliament is composed of 140 members, only 16 of which are women.

Against this background, the Réseau Arc en Ciel capitalised on the Momentum of local elections and especially the opportunity of the municipal voting mode (candidate lists), to push for change •

Central African Republic

EISA and its partners helped establish a new electoral code in Central Africa, mandating 50% female candidates in municipal elections to enhance women's representation in decision-making roles





Chad



The 'Supporting Chadian Citizens and Elections' Project (*Appui aux Acteurs Citoyens Tchadiens et Aux Élections*) (ACTE) - **aims at providing citizen actors with the tools and technical support necessary for an electoral process that restores the legitimacy of the authorities as well as the confidence of the voters thus contributing to anchoring democratic values, good governance and respect for fundamental rights and freedoms in Chad.**

Project Result Areas

Nationwide civic and voter education

[View Project →](#)

Citizen Observation Mission deployed to monitor the constitutional referendum in Chad

[View Project →](#)

Research and analysis of the Transition in Chad supported

[View Project →](#)

2023 Constitutional Referendum: Pioneering the Situation Room Concept in Chad

[View Project →](#)



Dr. Pierre Kadi Sossou
Country Director



Ms. Hikmat Aderamane Adamou
Admin and Finance Officer



M. Laurent Hibra Doumlia
Program Officer



Dr. Ali Simeï Guessé
Program Officer



Our Donor:
European Union (UE)



Our Partner:
Alliance citoyenne pour des élections au Tchad (ACET)



Grace Issele
Programme Officer



M. Elhadj Souleman Ndinga
Programme Assitant



Christine Tapra Konsebe
Programme Assitant

Chad

Nationwide civic and voter education



Under project objective one, EISA committed to equipping and organizing Chadian civic actors to conduct voter education and awareness-raising activities in synergy with the election management body. The National Commission for the Organisation of the Constitutional Referendum (CONOREC), established in January 2023, initiated the revision of the electoral roll in July 2023.

The National Commission for the Organisation of the Constitutional Referendum (CONOREC), established in January 2023, initiated the revision of the electoral roll in July 2023.

This step facilitated collaboration between CONOREC, UNDP, and EISA, resulting in the production of a voter guide endorsed and prefaced by the President of CONOREC, who is also the Minister of Territorial Administration. A condensed four-page version was specifically designed for wide distribution among voters. Radio spots (three in total) were also utilized to reach a broader audience, enhancing voter awareness and understanding.

- A Voter Guide was developed by EISA and adopted by the Election Management Body, CONOREC to be used as a civic education tool playing a vital role nationwide.
- 55 media professionals - 25% of which were women - trained in elections coverage techniques •



Chad

Citizen Observation Mission deployed to monitor the constitutional referendum in Chad



To support the establishment of a suitable citizen observation mechanism, EISA equipped its CSO partner network, Alliance Citoyenne pour des élections au Tchad / Citizen Alliance for Elections in Chad (ACET), to deploy an Electoral Observation Mission (EOM-ACET) to monitor and evaluate the constitutional referendum on December 17, 2023.

The core team of 20 members and its 35 master trainers were trained to coordinate and supervise the deployment of 240 long-term observers (LTOs) nationwide from July 24, 2023, to December 20, 2023.

The LTOs, who observed the preparatory phases of the referendum and the referendum campaign, were joined by 260 short-term observers (STOs), bringing the total to 500 observers deployed across all provinces of the country and in the ten districts of N'Djamena to observe referendum day. On election day, deployment coordination of STOs was conducted from a Citizen Situation Room that was open from December 16 to 18, 2023. Within this framework, the EOM-ACET piloted an electronic data reporting scheme based on the Popola system established by EISA.

This pilot experience will be capitalised on in future elections.

- 20 members of ACET including 25% women were trained as core team members of the ACET election observation mission, contributing to the integrity and transparency of the electoral process.
- EISA trained 35 master trainers of observers, including 54.28% women and 57.14% youth.
- EISA trained 240 long-term observers (LTOs), of which 39.17% were women, and deployed them in the 23 provinces of Chad to observe the operations of the biometric electoral register revision.
- EISA trained and deployed 500 short-term observers to ensure transparency and fairness in the December 2023 Constitutional Referendum in Chad.
- A Citizen Situation Room successfully operationalized in Chad for the first time to monitor, analyse and disseminate information collected by LTOs and STOs.
- EISA conducted 3 BRIDGE trainings resulting in 26 individuals completing the Training for Facilitators (TtF), including 38.46% women.
- 6 Workshop Facilitators and 1 accredited facilitator were appointed •

Chad

Research and analysis of the Transition in Chad supported



The research and analytical capacities of the European Union Delegation to Chad were supported through an independent evaluation of the various stages of Chad's transitional process, including the Inclusive National Dialogue, the new Constitution, and the legal and institutional framework of the elections.

During the period covered by this report, EISA produced an internal ten-page report for the EU Delegation on the Inclusive and Sovereign National Dialogue (DNIS), detailing its composition, progress, inclusiveness and the strengths of the dialogue's proposals, among other aspects.



Chad

2023 Constitutional Referendum: Pioneering the Situation Room Concept in Chad



In a historic move aimed at fostering transparency and citizen engagement in Chad, the operationalization of the Citizen Situation Room (CSR) marked a significant milestone in the country's electoral landscape. Summoned on December 17, 2023, to cast their ballots on the constitutional referendum, voters witnessed a groundbreaking initiative led by EISA and its partner, the Citizen Alliance for Elections in Chad (ACET).

The CSR emerged as a powerful tool for real-time observation and analysis, with the objective of providing a platform for collecting and analyzing observation data communicated by the 500 observers deployed for the referendum. This initiative, under the ACTE project funded by the European Union, aimed to correct any irregularities promptly and proactively, with the potential for the decision chamber of the CSR to engage with the election management body, CONOREC.

The operationalization of the CSR, the first of its kind, proved instrumental in facilitating efficient and proactive observation. Real-time analyses were generated to address reported incidents and irregularities, underscoring the CSR's role in upholding electoral integrity and transparency.

Dedicated teams were assembled and trained for each chamber of the CSR (a technical chamber, an intermediary chamber, and a decision-making chamber),

with meticulous planning ensuring their readiness for execution. Even if the teams were not familiar with the Popola software, their dedication and resourcefulness ensured uninterrupted data collection and analysis.

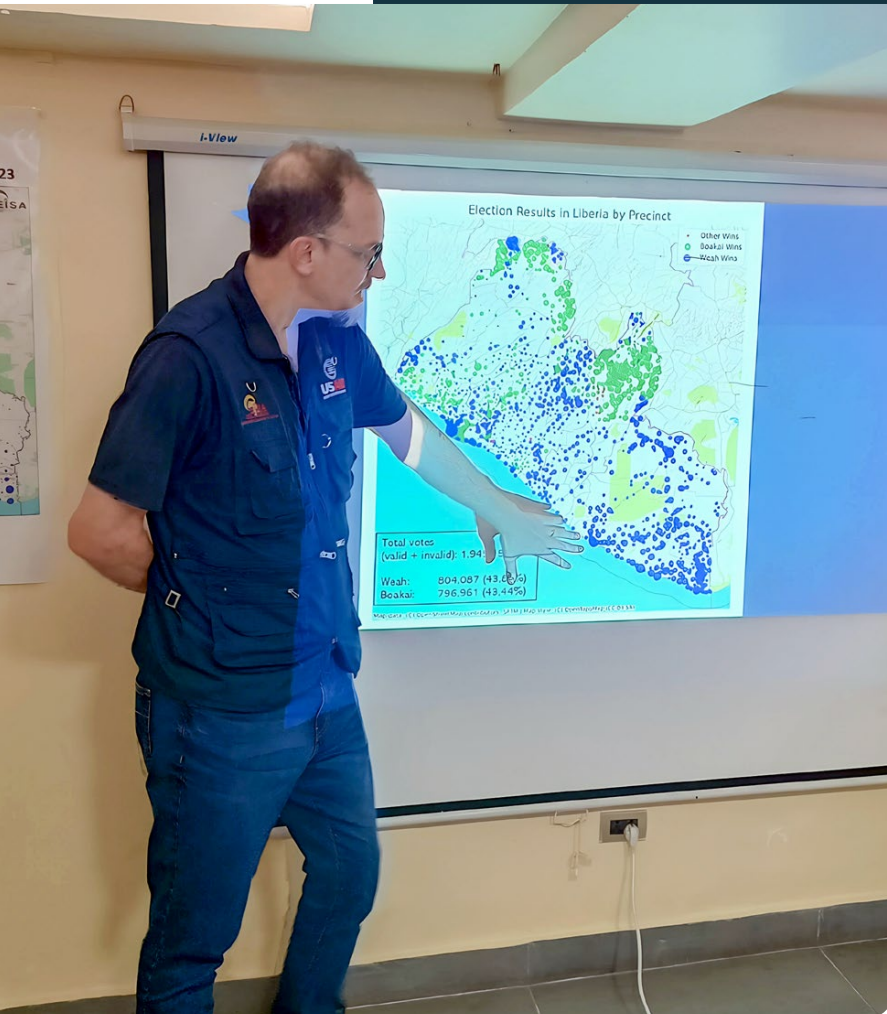
The communication process was streamlined, with real-time data collected from the field by the technical chamber, transmitted to analysts in the intermediary chamber for scrutiny and subsequent submission to the decision-making chamber. The level of engagement and commitment demonstrated by the members underscored the gravity of their task and contributed to substantive discussions.

Despite encountering challenges such as media unavailability, low public engagement, and network disruptions, the CSR succeeded in providing valuable insights into the electoral process. These challenges serve as learning opportunities for future improvements and enhancements to the CSR's functionality.

The successful operationalization of the Citizen Situation Room heralds a new era of democratic governance in Chad, setting a precedent for proactive citizen participation and oversight in electoral processes. As Chad gears up for the upcoming presidential elections in May 2024, the invaluable lessons gleaned from this experience will serve as guiding principles for future interventions •



Liberia



The International Election Observation Mission (IEOM) Activity is aimed at enhancing the integrity of the 2023 general elections in Liberia through the deployment of an independent international election observer mission to assess the electoral process in adherence to national law and regional and international principle and obligations for democratic elections.

Project Result Areas

Impartial and ongoing monitoring, assessment, and reporting on all aspects of the electoral process was conducted by EISA

[View Project →](#)

Strategic Deployment and Expert Leadership in Monitoring Liberia's Elections

[View Project →](#)

Effective Collaboration with Domestic Observers

[View Project →](#)

EISA Strengthens Liberia's Democracy Through Impartial Observation and Recommendations

[View Project →](#)

Grant Masterson
Country Director



Antonetta Hamandishe
Election Expert



Pontsho Motaung
International Finance Officer



Darren L. Domah
Legal Analyst

Our Donor: USAID



Kau Belleh
Gender and Social Inclusion Specialist



Nelsson Freeman
Security Analyst



Andrew Willeh
Security Analyst



Wilfred Balah
Gender and Social Inclusion Specialist



George Cocker
Finance Admin Assistant



Saba Cephas
Mission Assistant



Noxolo Gwala
LTO Coordinator



George Sharpe
Media Analyst

Liberia

Impartial and ongoing monitoring, assessment, and reporting on all aspects of the electoral process was conducted by EISA



The EISA International Election Observation Mission (IEOM) focused on the thorough analysis and reporting of the 2023 Liberian elections. Through key Informant Interviews (KIIs) as well as the technical team of experts' engagement with a wide array of stakeholders, a nuanced understanding of critical areas - such as election conflict triggers, issues of gender and social inclusion, election management and media coverage - was developed. Weekly Observation Reports provided timely updates on various electoral aspects, shaping stakeholders' understanding of evolving dynamics.

Election analysis, characterised by impartiality and factual accuracy, covered key procedural and accuracy aspects (biometric voter registration, civic and voter education, campaign, candidate nomination and election procedures), ensuring comprehensive coverage of the electoral environment. These analyses resulted in various publications, including preliminary statements and post-election reports.

The dissemination of IEOM public documents, including press releases, preliminary statements, and weekly newsletters, facilitated public access to information, enhancing transparency in the electoral process.

The Mission's press statements, preliminary reports, and comprehensive recommendations have been instrumental in shaping refresher training sessions for the second round of elections. The focus on enhancing transparency and citizen trust in the National Elections Commission (NEC) has contributed to the overall success of the mission.

With an unwavering commitment to a continuous democratic and peaceful transfer of power, the 2023 elections were seen as pivotal for further solidifying the progress achieved in Liberia's post-conflict period.

Liberia

Strategic Deployment and Expert Leadership in Monitoring Liberia's Elections



EISA recruited, trained, and deployed 20 short-term observers to monitor both the October 10, 2023, elections and the Presidential runoff on November 14, 2023. 32 Observers (Long-Term and Short-Term combined) were deployed to monitor elections in 13 out of the 15 counties of Liberia on October 10, 2023, and 30 observers for the runoff on November 1, covering extensive geographical representation.

The mission used statistical sampling to select polling places for deployment in line with international best practice for field research and data collection

EISA also secured the expertise of Dr Nevers Mumba, former Vice President of Zambia, to serve as the Head of Mission for the EISA-IEOM. Dr Mumba delivered a powerful and comprehensive preliminary statement for both rounds of elections, further enhancing the mission's credibility and impact.

EISA's long-term observers actively monitored and reported on training initiatives, contributing to the improvement of processes related to the runoff elections. The 2023 elections mark a significant milestone in Liberia's political history post the withdrawal of UNMIL and the funding of elections. An election run by the government, with limited donor community support, symbolises significant progress towards democratization.



Liberia

Effective Collaboration with Domestic Observers



The EISA mission significantly enhanced the effectiveness of domestic observers, such as LEON and ECC, by conducting robust long-term international observation. By deploying Long-Term Observers (LTOs) early and adhering to planned timelines, the EISA-IEOM demonstrated a proactive approach, instilling confidence among Liberian citizens and electoral stakeholders in the vigilance of the international community.

Moreover, EISA-IEOM actively collaborated with ECC and LEON through regular coordination meetings and information exchange sessions. This facilitated a seamless flow of information and insights across various aspects of the pre-election period, ensuring a comprehensive analysis of the electoral process.

The linkage between county-level LTOs and EISA observers, coupled with joint update meetings, strengthened the mission's ability to provide critical assessments

Furthermore, this collaboration with local Civil Society Organisations (CSOs) enriched the analysis with deep insights into the local context, thereby enhancing the mission's impact and credibility.



Liberia

EISA Strengthens Liberia's Democracy Through Impartial Observation and Recommendations



EISA's International Election Observation Mission (IEOM) played a pivotal role in fostering a peaceful and transparent electoral process in Liberia's 2023 elections. EISA established a long-term presence, deploying observers six months before the election. This allowed for in-depth monitoring of crucial stages like voter registration, campaigning, and polling.

Using a long-term election observation methodology that included the deployment of six international Long-Term Observers (for nine months) and 20 Short-Term Observers drawn from more than 20 African countries, the mission closely monitored various stages of the elections, including voter registration, campaigning, and polling.

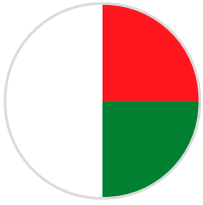
During the elections period, EISA produced 48 weekly observation reports. These reports utilised information drawn from key informant interviews (505 in total) and engagement with various stakeholders (in 12 out of the 15 counties), which provided valuable insights into the electoral environment. EISA's data-driven recommendations and comprehensive observation reports identified critical issues and provided timely recommendations to the relevant stakeholders. In addition, the mission produced various reports, including pre-election assessments, weekly observation reports, and post-election statements. This contributed to addressing concerns such as potential voter intimidation and irregularities. For example, EISA's reports and recommendations informed

improvements made for the second round of elections in addition to addressing critical issues like pre-campaigning activities and voter trucking.

By providing timely and constructive recommendations based on rigorous data collection and analysis, the project facilitated international support for democratic and peaceful elections in Liberia. This support, demonstrated through partnerships with domestic (ECC and LEON) and international observer groups, helped to contribute towards transparent electoral processes.

Overall, the EISA-IEOM project's impact extended beyond the electoral process itself, contributing to the consolidation of democratic governance, the promotion of gender equality (50% of the observers were women, promoting inclusivity within the mission itself), balanced media reporting (EISA's findings were used by 17 local and international media outlets, fostering informed public discourse) and the maintenance of peace and stability in Liberia. Through its multifaceted approach and commitment to international standards for democratic elections, the project exemplifies the transformative power of democracy assistance in fostering positive change and progress in post-conflict societies like Liberia.

EISA's impartial presence as an international observer bolstered public trust in the electoral process ●



Madagascar



The Ndao Hifidy programme implemented with the support of USAID (United States Agency for Development) aims to **increase citizens' understanding and confidence in electoral processes to improve voter turnout and promote informed and inclusive participation in the 2023 elections**. The program covered all 23 regions of Madagascar, but provided specific focus on the areas of Analamanga, Atsimo Andrefana and Atsinanana.

Project Result Areas

Awareness building on voter registration

[View Project →](#)

Women and youth: actors in the consolidation of democracy

[View Project →](#)

Za Hifidy – youth voter registration and awareness campaign

[View Project →](#)



Valdiodio Ndiaye
Country Director



Soa Razafimanjato
Senior Programme Officer



Niaina Ramaroshon
Senior Administrative and Finance Officer



Sitraka Randrianarison
Programme Officer



Andriaharivola Reine Ramananjanahary
Programme Officer



Haingotiana Randriamazaoro
Programme Officer



Manitra Ala Ratsimbazafy
Communication Officer



Kenny Razafijemisa
Programme Assistant

Our Donors:



Mibaliaka Rakotondrasoa
Accountant



Casielle Ratsioriniazy
Administrative & Financial Assistant



Faneva Rafanomezantsoa
Logistics Agent

Madagascar

Awareness building on voter registration



The second phase of the “Ny Feoko” project implemented as part of the Ndao Hifidy Program aimed to raise awareness – specifically among young people and women – of the need to register on the electoral roll. This awareness-raising and information campaign was carried out in the program’s target areas during the first quarter of 2023.

Following the publication of the final electoral list, there was a considerable increase in the registration of young people and women. Following the campaigns, 54.40% of women were registered on the lists, compared with 51.74% during the previous revision of the roll. Similarly, young voters, initially represented at 42.36%, registered a significant increase to 49.38%. Strategic partnerships with 21 civil society organisations further amplified the impact of the activity, extending the reach of EISA’s actions to 119 Communes in Madagascar’s 23 Regions (ie. Madagascar - Ny Feoko Campaign - Ndao Hifidy).

Civic and electoral education campaigns

EISA conducted various civic and voter education campaigns in 2023. The first of which was a civic and electoral education campaign named Ny Fahefako between April and June 2023. The aim was to inform and educate women and young people about democratic principles, focusing on their rights and duties as citizens. The 2023 campaign was enormously impactful. Over 545 CSOs were sensitized and/or involved, including 22 CSOs representing people with disabilities; 1,025 awareness-raising facilitators or citizen relays were mobilized, including 435 women; 424,191 people have been sensitized, including 246,954 women, 217,965 young people and 1,960 people with disabilities.

Churches, schools, universities and the Independent National Electoral Commission (CENI) followed Ny Fahefako and actively collaborated with EISA. (ie. Madagascar- Ny Fahefako Campaign - Ndao hifidy) The Masi-mandidy campaign aimed to educate young people, women and people with disabilities, about voting procedures. The campaign also built awareness on the importance of voting, but above all, the importance of making a responsible choice. At the end of the campaign, more than 500 CSOs were involved and around 300 000 citizens were informed about the electoral process, the voting mechanism as well as the stakes of responsible voting.

Combating misinformation through a Media and information campaign

Through the Ndao Hifidy media and information campaign, 23 journalists from different regions and working for different media outlets were trained and have since been applying the principles of media coverage during the election period. To date, 18 of these 23 journalists have joined the EISA Madagascar information pool. In addition, 5 CSOs received training in media and information literacy during election periods. Following this capacity-building, 20 representatives of these CSOs drew up strategies for educational campaigns on the subject. The campaign benefited young people, women and people with disabilities in the 6 provincial capitals. 4,047 beneficiaries, including 2,346 university students and young people in community settings, as well as 1,701 women and young women, are now aware of the risks and challenges of misinformation during election periods. In the university environment, more than 200 beneficiaries have testified that they used the methods of cross-checking information taught in the media education campaign before sharing them on social networks ●

Madagascar

Women and youth: actors in the consolidation of democracy



The Women and Youth: Actors for the Consolidation of Democracy project aims to increase the transparency of the pre-electoral process in Madagascar. The project's activities focus on setting up and building the capacities of citizen relays, who will then develop an effective civic and democratic education strategy in the SAVA, Menabe, Diana and Boeny regions. The project targeted women, young people and other marginalized groups. The campaign ran from January to April 2023.

Reinforcing stability and transparency prior to elections

During the project's implementation, 4 civil society organisations partnered in disseminating messages aimed at ensuring stability and reinforcing transparency in the pre-electoral phase. Trained in advance, the representatives of these 4 organisations spread the word, enabling the project's achievements to be disseminated more widely among the CSO's respective members. As a result, 152 citizen relays were trained and deployed in 11 districts of the target regions.

Thanks to the field visits carried out by these relays, 170,624 people benefited from the awareness-raising campaigns. It is estimated that the impact was extended thanks to the broadcasting of 15 multi-actor debates on the project's sensitive themes, rebroadcast on audio-visual channels.

Madagascar

Za Hifidy – youth voter registration and awareness campaign



The 2023 Canadian Fund for Local Initiatives (CFLI) youth voter registration and awareness campaign is a follow-up to the eponymous campaign conducted in 2022. The campaign's objective was to encourage young people to register on the electoral list during the complete overhaul.

Encouraging potential young voters

The campaign implemented with the support of FCIL was aimed at young people in 9 communes of Madagascar. The aim was to develop an inclusive campaign to encourage young people to vote responsibly. Fora and voting education campaigns in the media and on social networks benefited 1,187 young people.

At the end of the campaigns, 899 of the 1187 young people, or 76%, had registered to vote. Of these, 51% were first-time voters, while 58% were women. On this basis, 61% or 550 out of 899 went to the polls.

As a result of the 2023 campaigns, more than 26 civil society organisations were involved in EISA activities, and 104 people were trained in the fundamental principles of democracy, particularly on expertise in electoral processes and strategies for combating misinformation. In total, 72,070 people were sensitized to the key themes of the electoral process, ranging from registration on the electoral roll to the issues involved in taking part in elections, not forgetting the challenges of consuming information during election periods.



Niger



The three-year, 'Supporting the sustainability of the achievements of the Elections Management Body (CENI) and the Media Regulator (CSC) of Niger' project, began in October 2022. This project is a continuation of the support EISA provided to the electoral processes in Niger between 2020-2022. The current project aims to **provide institutional support and capacity building to the CENI and the CSC to fulfil their mandates in electoral administration and regulation respectively.**

Project Result Areas

Validation of new CENI Human Resources and Financial Procedures documents

[View Project →](#)

Supporting preparations for the inclusion of diaspora in legislative elections

[View Project →](#)

Strengthening the CSC regulatory mechanism

[View Project →](#)

Institutional evaluation of the CSC

[View Project →](#)

Aimé Konan
Country Director



Kadiatou Toure
Finance and Administration Officer



Rouafi Gagara
Programme Officer



Gorko Oumarou
Programme Officer



Bintou Moussa Kaka
Finance and Administration Assistant



Our Donor:
European Union (UE)

Niger

Validation of new CENI Human Resources and Financial Procedures documents



The Human Resources manual and financial procedures - drafted during EISA's previous project in Niger - were validated at a workshop held between March 28 to April 1, 2023.

The discussions included the participation from 30 CENI members - including all the senior staff - and the support of the Niger High Commission for State Modernization (HCME) as well as the Ministry of labour and civil service.

The documents have been adopted with a view to becoming the subject of a regulatory act.

Niger

Supporting preparations for the inclusion of diaspora in legislative elections



The diaspora voting was scheduled for June 18, 2023. In preparation for this, EISA supported, a CENI multiparty meeting with political parties. The meeting in March 2023 included 150 political parties.

A further meeting, in the same month, included members of civil society and the media, with a total of 100 partners invited.

The meetings provided an opportunity to enhance communication and inclusion in electoral processes.

Among the discussions, the voters list, the election calendar as well as procedures of upcoming operations were all deliberated ●

Niger

Strengthening the CSC regulatory mechanism



According to the law in Niger, an induction training is provided to all new CSC senior staff. The new leadership of CSC was installed on Friday the 31st of March 2023. The incoming 15 board members were introduced to the institution regulatory mechanism.

This skills development workshop supported by EISA in May 2023 was attended by 24 people, including six women.

While the workshop's primary purpose was capacity building, it was also an opportunity for team building between the administrative and technical staff of the institution. The new CSC chair took advantage of the location of the workshop to meet with local media in the city of Dosso ●

Niger

Institutional evaluation of the CSC



The process of institutional evaluation of the CSC resumed in May 2023 with the development of the terms of reference for the intervention which brings together three stakeholders: The CSC (beneficiary), EISA and the High Authority for State Modernisation (HCME) (technical monitoring and support for quality control). The last working session held on July 20, 2023, between these different actors made it possible to adopt and validate consensual ToRs. Work was planned to start in August 2023 with a view to achieve an organisational strengthening action plan and a new strategic plan.

EISA has been supporting the CENI in Niger towards a successful first diaspora legislative by-election process.

In 2022, EISA played a key role in the registration of diaspora voters, the production of the voters list, awareness material development, training of CENI trainers and eventually packing and delivery of registration materials in 12 countries. Between December 2022 and January 2023 EISA continued this work, providing support to the CENI for the registration data processing. The process resulted in the registration - in all 15 countries concerned - of 227,289 voters, including 59,975 women (26,38%). The final list after contestation is 205,314 voters including 56,274 women (27,40%).

In 2023 EISA continued its support to the process through the preparation and voting operations. The Legislative By-Election for Niger Diaspora were held on June 18, 2023, in 15 countries. EISA supported the CENI in material packing (by 20 warehousemen) and delivery (May-June 2023), an awareness campaign that ran from June 2023 and the deployment of 19 CENI election supervisors in 12 countries. EISA was the only organisation to support CENI at all stages during this unprecedented process in the history of the country •



Somalia



The overall objective of the 'Strengthening local governance structures for more accountable and inclusive Federal Member States in support of the WADAJIR National Framework' project was to **contribute to the strengthening of stability in Somalia through an inclusive formation of district councils and authorities**. The focus of the interventions was to integrate and strengthen gender and youth inclusive governance and administration.

Project Result Areas

Strengthening local governance structures for more accountable and inclusive Federal Member States in support of the WADAJIR National Framework – Phase II

[View Project →](#)

Ibrahim Abdullahi Maalim
Field Coordinator



Abdullahi Abdow Ali
Governance Officer, Galmudug



Abdullahi Abdulrahman Aligab
Governance Officer,
Jubaland state



Yassin Aden Mohamed
Governance Officer,
Hirshabelle state



Fowzia Mohamed Abdullah
Finance and Administration
Officer

Our Donor: European Union (UE)



Our Partner: Finn Church Aid



Somalia

Strengthening local governance structures for more accountable and inclusive Federal Member States in support of the WADAJIR National Framework – Phase II



Collaborative local governance

EISA deployed its project team to Jowhar in January 2023, where they held high level discussions with officials from the Ministry of Interior on the district council formation processes, including assessing progress made in areas on power-sharing, upcoming electoral processes and local governance areas needing capacity strengthening support.

The meeting was attended by the Minister of Interior, H.E Abdirahman Dahir Gure-Karore, State Minister of Interior, Nur Hassan Sheikh Muse, Director General in the Ministry, Awes Sheikh Ahmed and the Civic Engagement and Local Governance Advisor.

The discussions emphasised the importance of strengthening existing collaboration between the parties involved in the Local Governance project and the exploration of opportunities for future cooperation in local governance, peace, reconciliation and stabilization of the newly liberated areas in Hirshabelle state.

Community reconciliation sessions

The EISA project team convened community reconciliation sessions with clan elders that included Mohamed Hirey Mohamed, Hassan Ali Mudey and Hassan Qassim Qailo. The discussions with the three clan elders were aimed at facilitating an increased pace for the power sharing processes among the clans which would in turn pave the way for interventions related to the

district council formation exercise. Through these discussions elders were encouraged to soften their stance regarding their differences and work towards common goals for the benefit of their communities – particularly given the context of power sharing.

The discussions with clan elders yielded a positive trajectory for the involvement of women in the power sharing agreements and in the constitution of district councils - either as elected representatives or as participants especially during civic dialogue sessions. The elders who engaged in the discussions committed to giving due consideration to the suggestions made by EISA by allowing and facilitating improved participation of women and the youth in the district council formation processes.

Facilitating dialogue on conflict

EISA supported a five-day training of trainers' workshop for Jowhar district preparatory committees on 4th – 8th February 2023 in Jowhar district. The training was a crucial step in facilitating dialogue sessions which targeted local professional to moderate the conversation on conflict issues in the community. The purpose of the training was also to equip the facilitators or master trainers with skills to moderate civic dialogue and how to enhance peaceful coexistence of the community in Jowhar district. The sessions further helped the new trainers to mainstream gender in community engagements •



Sudan



EISA's Resilience and Innovation in Sudan's Electoral Capacity Building Amid Conflict

demonstrates the organisation's ongoing commitment to furthering democracy across the continent.

Our Donor: European Union (UE)



Mukenyi Badibanga
Country Director



Ange Marie Nijimbere
Finance and Administration
Manager



Deo-Gracias Kanyinda
International
Programme Officer



Aamir Bashir
Interpreter/Translator



Tasnim Mohammed
Finance and Administration
Officer



Abdallah Elsheikh
Programme Assistant

Sudan

In the face of the challenging circumstances in Sudan arising from the conflict which began in April 2023, EISA remained committed to enhancing the capacity of electoral stakeholders through a combination of online and in-person engagements. EISA innovatively adjusted the workplan and operational approaches to facilitate the achievement of programme deliverables amid the challenging context.



Despite the ongoing war, the successful implementation of select activities in regions less impacted by the conflict provided valuable insights into sustaining programme implementation amid the prevailing armed conflict.

Among the major lessons learnt:

Continuous engagement with the EISA EU focal point, coupled with regular briefings between the EISA Sudan team and the EU, were crucial drivers in keeping the eyes on the ball and the fire of motivation burning.

Key events

- **Regional Consultation meetings**

The consultation meetings that started in 2022 concluded in February 2023 achieving its overall objective “to discuss the role of different CSOs in the broad scope of the SESCO project in general and their role in the establishment and functioning of the Sudan Election Monitoring Group (SEMG)”. More than 200 representatives from more than 130 organisations took part in the consultations.

- **CSOs multistakeholder forums- Combatting hate speech**

In collaboration with its local partner, EISA, organised two activities in Atbara titled “Combating Hate Speech”. The aim was to address the growing concerns surrounding hate speech and its detrimental effects on social cohesion and democratic processes.

Sudan has faced challenges related to hate speech that has been exacerbated by the ongoing war, impacting social harmony and democratic values. The activities in Atbara aimed to engage various stakeholders in constructive discussions to address this issue. The region’s history and current political context underscore the importance of promoting tolerance and understanding.

These activities achieved 50% of women’s participation comprising representatives from civil society organisations, internally displaced people (IDPs), and community leaders. Through interactive discussions in the workshops, participants engaged in a constructive dialogue to promote tolerance, empathy, and understanding of the topic. The activities covered a wide range of topics, including discussions on the definition of hate speech, its causes, the different types, and consequences. Building on this, there were also discussions on hate speech in the context of social media, hate speech against women, and the implications under international conventions and laws. Furthermore, participants explored strategies for combating hate speech, fostering a comprehensive understanding of the issue. Despite numerous challenges faced during their implementation, such as the internet blackout, these activities were a success, representing a commitment to democratic values in Sudan and support to its people during this period of crisis ●

BES



The broad objective of EISA's Balloting and Electoral Services Unit (BES) is to **promote a culture of democracy and build the confidence of organisations and their beneficiaries in democratic electoral processes**, as an essential component of good governance, within themselves and society in general.

Election Highlights

**Hospitality & General Provident Fund
(HGPF) Board of Trustees**

[View Project →](#)

**Amnesty International South Africa (AISA)
Board Election**

[View Project →](#)

**Public Servants Association of South Africa
(PSA) Board of Directors**

[View Project →](#)

**Election of Nine Members of the South African
Pharmacy Council**

[View Project →](#)



Ms Crystal Africa
Senior Programme Officer



Ms Riana Henley
Project Coordinator

BES

Hospitality & General Provident Fund (HGPF) Board of Trustees



The Fund was established to provide retirement and other ancillary benefits for members of the Fund. Eight member elected Trustees and eight alternate Trustees are elected by Member Forums and eight Trustees appointed by participating employers, and one Independent. The Financial Sector Conduct Authority appointed a new Board in terms of the Pension Funds Act, No 24 of 1956 - as the previous Board was not properly constituted in terms of the Rules of the Fund.

BES was appointed as an independent election agency and successfully managed the

nominations process, candidate vetting, and the election of members and alternate trustees to the Board at nine elective meetings across 5 provinces, to comprise the fully constituted Board.

BES

Key Events



Amnesty International South Africa (AISA) Board Election

BES provided a cost-effective solution, and independently administered manual voting for five members of the Inaugural Governing Body at the Amnesty International South Africa's 2023 Annual General Meeting in Sandton. Since this was the organisation's first election, AISA, in consultation with EISA, developed election procedures which was adopted at the AGM and applied by voting delegates, successfully upholding the values of transparency and integrity.

Public Servants Association of South Africa (PSA) Board of Directors

The Public Servants Association of SA is a legal persona and registered trade union under the Labour Relations Act, No 66 of 1995. It represents over 240 000 public servants, public service pensioners and employees of semi state institutions. Its objective is to protect the rights of its state employees. The Board of Directors consists of ten Directors, and at least one third is elected annually. 78 eligible PSA branches countrywide participated at the Annual General Meeting in Pretoria to elect three vacancies on its Board of Directors in line with the PSA Statute. EISA received audited membership totals verified by SizweNtsalubaGobodo Grant Thornton Inc. which included the vote

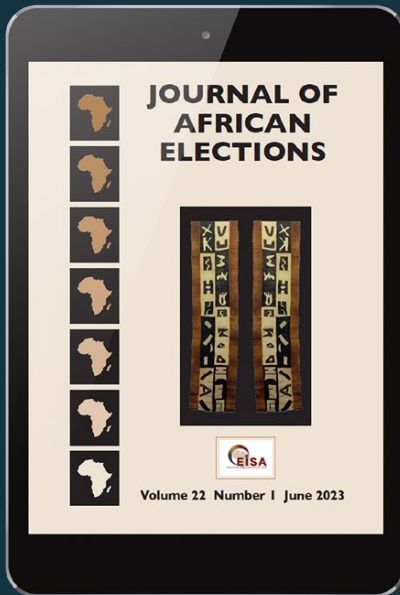
and weighted vote for each branch as stipulated in the Rules, and successfully managed the manual voting process and ballot count at the meeting.

Election of Nine Members of the South African Pharmacy Council

EISA was appointed as the independent monitoring body for the Election of Nine Members of the South African Pharmacy Council - in terms of Section 5(1)(a) of the Pharmacy Act, 53 of 1974. Part of its brief was to verify the list of eligible nominees which was published in the Government Gazette, and to execute a walk-through and test of the voting functionality of the digital/online system. 18,204 registered pharmacists were permitted to vote as prescribed in terms of the Election Regulations and a total of 7 062 voters cast their votes in the 72-hour voting period with a total number of 50 651 votes for individual candidates. A 38.8% voter turnout was recorded. The election of the new Council members proceeded in terms of the Regulations relating to the election of members of the South African Pharmacy Council and EISA issued a declaration that the election of 9 Pharmacists was done in accordance with the stipulated SA Pharmacy Council Regulations, was credible, and supported the publication of the duly elected Board members in the Government Gazette as provided for in the Board Notice ●

Publications

Journal of African Elections



News

We published over 30 news articles in 2023. Visit our news section to read more.

[View News](#) →

Publications

Research Reports

Madagascar

- Photographie de départ sur la manifestation des "mésinformation - désinformation - malinformation" à Madagascar - 2023
- Etudes sur la manifestation des "mésinformation - désinformation - malinformation" à Madagascar durant le processus électoral de 2023
- Etudes sur le comportement des électeurs des électeurs - 2023
- Le dialogue national inclusif et souverain : Analyse de l'inclusion et de la qualité des débats. Rapport interne à l'attention de la Délégation de l'Union européenne en République du Tchad, Novembre 2022

Liberia

- Biometric Voter Registration Reports: Phases one and two:
 - Summary Report On The Conduct Of Biometric Voter Registration for Liberia 2023 Elections - Report
- Liberia Status Implementation of 2017 Election Recommendations on Liberia elections

Booklets

- Guide de l'électeur - 2023
- Guide à l'intention des journalistes sur la couverture du processus électoral - 2023
- Guide de l'électeur scrutin référendaire 2023, Booklet in French and Arab
- Guide de l'électeur Scrutin référendaire 2023, Four-Pager in French and Arab

Publications

Election Observation Reports

Chad

- Rapport final d'observation du referendum constitutionnel du 7 décembre 2023 au Tchad

Liberia

- Liberia General Pre-Election Media Assessment Report
- EISA IEOM Electoral Violence Monitoring and Mitigation Pre-Election Assessment for the 2023 General Elections
- EISA-IEOM Pre-Election Assessment Report to The Liberia 2023 General Elections
- Press Statement: The EISA International Election Observation Mission concerned about pre-election political rhetoric and intimidation

- STATEMENT: Electoral Institute For Sustainable Democracy In Africa- International Election Observation Mission To Liberia 2023 (EISA-IEOM) Condemns Electoral Violence In Foya District, Lofa County
- ARRIVAL STATEMENT: EISA International Election Observer Mission To The 10 October 2023 Presidential And Legislative Elections In Liberia
- PRESS STATEMENT: Release Of the EISA International Election Observation Mission Preliminary Statement
- PRESS STATEMENT: EISA-IEOM Urges Liberians to Build on The Exemplary Conduct Of The 10th Of October
- 2023 Elections Preliminary Statement: Runoff Elections

- PRELIMINARY STATEMENT: EISA IEOM To Liberia's 2023 Presidential Run-Off Election
- Final Media Assessment Report: EISA IEOM To Liberia 2023 Presidential and Legislative Elections
- PRELIMINARY STATEMENT: EISA IEOM to the Liberia 2023 Presidential and Legislative Elections
- EISA-LIEOM Gender And Social Inclusion (GESI) Assessment Of Liberia 2023 General Elections

STEP

- Benchmarks for enhanced political party performance for democratic governance in Africa - Second and revised edition 2022
- Lignes directrices pour rehausser la performance des partis politiques en matière de gouvernance démocratique en Afrique - Deuxième édition 2022

Partnerships



Foreign, Commonwealth
& Development Office



United Nations
Peacebuilding
Peacebuilding Fund



United
Nations

Democracy Fund



Finn Church Aid



Financial Report

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2023

	2023 R	2022 R
ASSETS	80,128,440	97,212,857
Non - current assets	13,412,822	13,784,272
Property and equipment	13,412,822	13,784,272
Current assets	66,715,618	83,428,585
Trade and other receivables	1,366,803	1,326,892
Accrued income - grants	20,200,420	18,554,121
Cash and cash equivalents	45,148,396	63,547,572
TOTAL ASSETS	80,128,440	97,212,857
RESERVES AND LIABILITIES	80,128,440	97,212,857

	2023 R	2022 R
Accumulated funds	(14,543,519)	(6,989,448)
Operating fund	(23,408,063)	(16,019,554)
Programme funds	-	-
Retrenchment fund	-	-
Revaluation reserve fund	8,864,544	9,030,106
Unrealised foreign currency reserve	-	-
Current liabilities	94,671,959	104,202,305
Trade and other payables	4,627,408	6,035,671
Deferred income	82,695,735	80,906,780
Provision for leave pay	348,886	231,857
Provision for corporate and project audit fees	241,388	1,491,985
Amounts refundable	6,758,542	15,536,012
TOTAL RESERVES AND LIABILITIES	80,128,440	97,212,857

Annual Report

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+27 11 381 6000 - 7

eisa@eisa.org

www.eisa.org

14 Park Rd, Richmond
Johannesburg, 2092
South Africa

P.O. Box 740, Auckland Park
Johannesburg, 2006
South Africa