

Country: Lesotho

Theme: Inclusive Electoral Literacy Through Informal Education Channel

Sub Theme: People working in unorganized Sector/Factory workers

Title of The Best Practice / Case Study: Electoral education for unorganized sectors

Area of Coverage: Maseru, and other districts

Period of implementation: 2011 to 2015

Background: Organisations that are dealing with human rights, civic and voter education, gender issues and youth issues as well as people with disabilities. The CSOs are sub-contracted or subsidised to provide electoral education on behalf of IEC in all the constituencies on the basis that they are able to organise successful and effective crowd pulling campaigns. Another reason being, ability to reach out to most remote areas and to access voters that are illiterate and have a difficulty to interact with voter education content. This has yielded fruitful results, in the sense that the partnership has enabled unity, strengthened relationship between IEC and CSOs.

Brief Description of Best Practice: Another good practice is training of all electoral stakeholders (political parties, civil society organisations, media institutions, youth, women and people with disabilities on the electoral process. This was started in 2011, and it is still being practiced. Before this kind of training, there used to be conflict between IEC and stakeholders due to misunderstanding on the way the process is managed. The groups include candidates, party agents, textile industry workers, herd boys and faith-based organisations.

Challenges: Training of stakeholders is very cumbersome and costly as stakeholders are many in numbers and they need intensive training. Political parties Executive Committees comprised of 11 to 15 members per party and Lesotho has about 23 political parties, so giving them training is a great challenge to IEC though it is necessary. Their level of education differs, training them together is difficult but it is done

Outcome: This has yielded fruitful results because it has brought good relationship, trust and ownership to political parties.