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Beyond the Ballots | August 2018

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BEYOND THE BALLOTS

The Global Elections and Political Transitions Newsletter



We want to remind you to opt in so we can stay in touch.

We are currently reviewing our database to ensure that all of our contacts have opted in to receive the Global Elections and Political Transitions (GEPT) newsletter and other periodic updates from the Consortium for Elections and Political Process Strengthening (CEPPS).

[OPT IN SO WE CAN KEEP IN TOUCH](#)

To help you stay on top of the latest GEPT programmatic updates from around the globe, we would like to share relevant and timely updates on the issues that are important to you.

The Global Elections and Political Transitions (GEPT) mechanism is a USAID Leader With Associates award held by the Consortium for Elections and Political Process Strengthening (CEPPS), a joint venture of three partners — the [International Foundation for Electoral Systems \(IFES\)](#), the [International Republican Institute \(IRI\)](#), and the [National Democratic Institute \(NDI\)](#).



GLOBAL / REGIONAL TRENDS



Panelists discuss ways to combat disinformation ahead of Mexico's general elections.

As part of the Global Elections and Political Transitions (GEPT) Leader Award, CEPPS monitors global trends that present opportunities or challenges for programming.

The strategic deployment of [disinformation is increasingly used](#) by domestic and foreign actors to affect politics and to undermine trust in democracy. In Eurasia and [Central and Eastern Europe](#), it is being used to amplify existing societal cleavages and xenophobic prejudices, stoke anti-Western sentiments, foment political disillusionment, and entrench autocrats. In Latin America, including [Mexico's upcoming elections](#), disinformation is being used to mount large-scale social media attacks on candidates and to undermine anti-corruption efforts. In Africa, disinformation emerged in Liberia's and [Kenya's recent elections](#), increasing existing political tensions and reducing trust in institutions. In Asia, disinformation is being employed to exacerbate social divisions and manipulate politics in India, Indonesia and the Philippines and to entrench authoritarians in places like Cambodia.

For the past three years, CEPPS has undertaken multi-faceted efforts to monitor, expose, and combat disinformation. This includes CEPPS/NDI's [INFO/tegrity initiative](#), CEPPS/IRI's [Beacon Project](#), and CEPPS/IFES' work countering election hoaxes and [communal incitement based on disinformation](#) in Kenya and Indonesia. Building on this work, the CEPPS partners have proposed a new technical leadership project to develop resources that promote more informed, inclusive, evidence-based programming to counter disinformation and support the integrity of political and electoral information. If approved, this project would start in the second half of 2018. For more information, contact Daniel Arnaudo at darnaudo@ndi.org.



TECHNICAL LEADERSHIP

Elections on Trial: Technical Leadership to Address Legal Challenges in the Electoral Process

Institutions dealing with election disputes and violations face enormous challenges. Mechanisms for election dispute resolution (EDR) must increasingly withstand new forms of sophisticated political and electoral manipulation that target public perceptions as a means to undermine the electoral process (most recently illustrated by the [Cambridge Analytica whistleblower claims](#)). Electoral democracies must also address rising impunity for violence, intimidation and harassment in election campaigns.



While attention is often given to the independence and impartiality of judges or arbiters, the mechanisms through which these cases are managed and publicized are often overlooked. To address this gap, as part of the Elections on Trial technical leadership project under the GEPT, CEPPS/IFES conducted comparative desk research on the management of election disputes in six countries: Mexico, Tunisia, Kenya, Macedonia, Kosovo, and the Philippines. The paper, "Elections on Trial: The Effective Management of Election Disputes and Violations" is available [here](#).

This analysis demonstrates a variety of strengths and opportunities for EDR institutions in the six countries examined, but ultimately illustrates that case management practices and platforms can help advance procedural justice (for individuals involved in an election dispute or accused of a violation) and open justice (for the public at large, which has a stake in the legitimacy of the election process and outcome). These practices should be encouraged and adopted by institutions responsible for resolving electoral disputes.

Beyond this research, the Elections on Trial project is focused on piloting regional electoral jurisprudence networks to facilitate peer-to-peer knowledge exchange and professional support among election arbiters; and developing a compendium of electoral case law to enhance access to information on precedents and fact patterns for arbiters. For further information on this project, contact Katherine Ellena at kellena@ifes.org.



SELECTED RESULTS

SELECTED RESULTS FROM SECOND QUARTER 2018



45
Public forums
involving
MPs and
the public



1.13
million
People receiving
civic & voter
education
materials



PROGRAM FOCUS

Sierra Leone: Supporting Peaceful Elections and Community Dialogue



Six presidential candidates engage in policy-based debate in Freetown, Sierra Leone, ahead of the March 7 elections. Credit: Vickie Remoe

In Sierra Leone, politics has historically centered on ethnic and regional allegiances rather than policy issues. In response, five CEPPS partners implemented complementary programming prior to the [March 2018 elections](#). CEPPS/NDI drew upon its partnership with the [United States Commission on Presidential Debates](#) and the [Debates International](#) network to help the Sierra Leone Debate Organizing Committee produce and broadcast [the country's first presidential candidate debate to feature all major political parties](#).

Two additional issue-based debates featured women and youth candidates. Each debate was broadcast on TV, radio and Facebook Livestream, potentially reaching millions of Sierra Leoneans. In addition, Search for Common Ground (SFCG) conducted 14 citizen priority workshops, facilitated 70 chiefdom-level issue-based discussions, and organized 45 debates with parliamentary candidates. CEPPS/IFES, SFCG and the National Electoral Commission (NEC) recorded and disseminated 25 announcements in English and Krio, and 22 messages in four languages each calling for peaceful run-off elections. Internews' roundtables — organized with the NEC — as well as Facebook and WhatsApp platforms helped journalists to develop new skills, quickly fact-check information and produce accurate news stories, helping to ease tensions in a volatile electoral environment.

CEPPS remains committed to supporting [Sierra Leone's continued democratic development](#). A CEPPS/IRI survey and focus groups on citizen priorities and expectations will be used to

help newly elected representatives develop their plans now that they are in office.

Tunisia: Promoting Participation in Local Governance and Election Processes



A member of JCI Gafsa encourages a local resident to vote in municipal elections at their “Elections on Wheels” event in downtown Gafsa.

Research conducted by CEPPS partners suggests that few Tunisians have sufficient information about how to participate in their country’s decentralization process. In response, CEPPS/IRI is assisting civil society organizations across the country to design and implement [civic and voter education initiatives](#) to encourage Tunisian women, youth and rural communities to participate in local governance.

Ahead of [municipal elections](#) on May 6, CEPPS/IRI partners organized [voting simulations](#) and other activities to educate Tunisians about their rights as citizens, and developed and distributed nationally-broadcast election public service announcements that reached hundreds of thousands of Tunisians. For instance, young volunteers from a CEPPS/IRI partner joined a [caravan of specialized medical staff from the regional government](#), traveling across rural southwest Tunisia to share information about the upcoming municipal elections and local governance with voters who would otherwise not have received this information given their location.

CEPPS/IFES collaborated with partner TU-MED to conduct a two-phase campaign targeting rural, illiterate women to encourage them to register and vote. CEPPS/IFES and TU-MED trained women outreach ambassadors on civic/electoral issues and equipped them with education tools tailored to beneficiaries with low literacy. In the first phase, 116 outreach ambassadors went door-to-door in six governorates reaching 6,200 rural women, of which 4,216 registered to vote.

With support from CEPPS/NDI, six Tunisian civil society organizations coordinated to observe different phases of the electoral process, including women’s engagement in rural areas,

campaign finance, vote buying patterns, voter registration, media coverage and election day procedures. In particular, CEPPS/NDI partner Mourakiboun deployed over 2,000 observers to conduct a statistically based observation nationwide as well as a parallel vote tabulation for the Tunis municipality.

CEPPS will continue to support Tunisian partners to assess the conduct of the May elections by holding post-election evaluation sessions as well as trainings to further identify and apply lessons learned.



Voter mobilization campaign conducted by women outreach ambassadors ahead of the 2018 municipal elections targeting illiterate, rural women.



READING LIST

- A new briefing paper provides insights into [violence against women in political parties](#) in Côte d'Ivoire, Honduras, Tanzania, and Tunisia.
- A nationwide survey finds that the majority of [Libyans are pessimistic about political dialogue initiatives](#) but plan to participate in future elections.
- Two op-eds explain the difference between [Russia's nefarious meddling](#) and [election assistance](#).
- A new [Abuse of State Resources assessment tool](#) supports advocates to expose unfair electoral advantage.
- [Rule of law issues](#) are drivers of migration but must also be part of a [holistic solution](#).

- The [Oxford Research Encyclopedia of Politics](#) defines the intersection of gender, politics, and violence.
- The US Civil Society Working Group on Women, Peace and Security presents a new policy brief on [“Violence against Women in Politics: A Barrier to Peace and Stability”](#).
- A new evaluation highlights lessons learned from [efforts to engage Burundian police and young people](#) in reducing the potential for conflict.
- [Ukraine must win the war on corruption to defeat Russia.](#)
- An innovative youth mapping methodology sheds light on how Colombia’s [peace processes can better incorporate youth](#).
- A new [intersectionality assessment framework](#) identifies barriers and emboldens participants to voice their opinions.
- Research links [corruption, discontentment, and violent extremism](#).



CEPPS IN THE NEWS

- All Africa: Liberia’s presidential election is a [milestone for African democracy](#).
- The Jordan Times: University students [advocate against child marriage](#)
- The Christian Science Monitor: After fall of a dictator, [young Gambians enter politics](#)
- The Hill: How Nigeria and the U.S. can work together to [build stability in Nigeria](#)
- The Washington Post: Action must be taken to [avert destabilization in the western Balkans](#)
- Reuters: [U.S. warns Congo against electronic voting for delayed election](#)
- The Star: Booklet provides guidance for pollworkers on [supporting voters with disabilities](#)
- TeenVogue: Online harassment is a [major problem for women candidates and politicians](#)



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Associate Partners

**American Bar Association's
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ROLI)**

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Elections (ANFREL)**

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**Electoral Institute for
Sustainable Democracy in
Africa (EISA)**

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**International Center for Not-for-
Profit Law (ICNL)**

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Internews

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**Institute for War and Peace
Reporting (IWPR)**

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Democracy
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