



Islamic Republic of Afghanistan
Independent Election Commission Secretariat
Information & External Relations Department

IEC Statement on Retrieval, Turnout and Contingency Materials 20 Sept 2010

The IEC is continuing to oversee the retrieval of materials from polling on 18 September 2010. Two days after elections, 73% of sensitive materials such as ballot boxes have been retrieved to IEC offices in provincial capitals. One hundred percent of materials in Helmand, Jowzjan, Kapisa, and Kabul have been retrieved while provinces with hard to reach areas, such as Badakhshan, Ghor, and Daikundi, have between 30-50% of materials retrieved. Provincial IEC offices are in turn forwarding results forms to the National Tally Center at IEC headquarters.

The IEC takes this opportunity to reiterate information on voter turnout as announced on 18 September. Voter turnout was calculated based on the maximum number of voters planned for, which were estimated through population statistics. By the end of polling on 18 September the IEC only received reports from approximately 79% of planned polling centers (86% of polling centers reported open), providing an initial turnout figure of 3,642,444 voters. Approximately 9.2 million voters were allocated to these polling centres out of a total allocation of 11.4 million voters for all polling centers. More complete information on all opened polling centers is expected to be released in conjunction with results.

Reports that contingency materials could not be distributed to polling centers have also been received by the IEC. It is important to point out that strict control of materials is one of the principles of fraud mitigation the IEC adheres to, and stringent procedures exist to ensure that these materials are not used to facilitate fraud and misconduct. A total of 255 polling centers received contingency materials on Election Day. Of those, logistical constraints prevented delivery to several centers in hard to reach areas such as Jawand District, Badghis and Darwaze Bela Mamai district, Badakhshan. Isolated cases where voters could not vote due to lack of materials are certainly regrettable but at the same time highlight the risks of holding elections in the current security and logistical climate.

Finally, the IEC notes that some media outlets and observer groups have been quick to imply the electoral process is unsuccessful based on allegations of fraud and misconduct. The IEC acknowledges that cases of fraud and misconduct are inevitable in the current security climate and is fully committed to working with the Electoral Complaints Commission to eliminate the effect from the final results insofar as possible. The IEC reminds these outlets that the process is not yet completed and urges media and observer groups to display restraint in their statements, in order to permit voters to decide on the legitimacy of the process as it continues to unfold.

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