



Youth Supporting Participation, Action and Civic Engagement

IFES Youth Engagement Training Program



Dear Youth Mobilizer,

We are so excited that you are taking on this leadership role to provide important information and motivate members of your community to vote in the upcoming election in June. This booklet will provide you with helpful information about mobilizing your communities through inclusive voter education.

The Youth Supporting Participation, Action and Civic Engagement training and booklet are designed to be inclusive materials so that you can connect with all eligible voters in your community – this includes first-time youth and other young voters, women, people with disabilities, members of the LGBTQ community and ethnic or religious minorities. Remember, we all learn a great deal from the diverse views, opinions, and experiences of our community members.

COVID-19 presents new challenges to us all - it is important that you reference and abide by all basic health and safety guidelines to make sure that you stay safe as well as keep others in your community safe. Remember to wear masks over your nose and mouth, maintain social distancing of 6 feet, and use hand sanitizer or wash hands regularly.

Political and civic engagement involves being a leader, communicating clearly and effectively with others, supporting and creating voter education messages, and mobilizing your community and other stakeholders.

You play an important part in making sure the many voices in your community are raised in the June 2022 elections. Thank you for your leadership!

An illustration of a person with dark skin and short black hair, wearing a blue long-sleeved shirt, holding a white rectangular sign with the words "YOUTH SPACE" in bold black capital letters. The person is positioned in the bottom left corner. A large, stylized graphic element consisting of a thick green line and a thick red line curves from the bottom right towards the center of the page. The background is a solid light orange color.

YOUTH SPACE

Day 1

Leadership Qualities

In this session, you will learn about the concept of leadership including different leadership styles, ethical leadership, and the qualities needed to be a good and ethical leader.

Communication Principles

In this session, you will learn about key communication principles and skills needed to be an effective and inclusive communicator.

Ethical Leadership

In this session, you will learn more about the qualities and skills needed to be an ethical leader both in-person and online.

Youth Participation in Elections

In this session, you will learn about the phases of the electoral cycle and the many ways that young people can participate throughout the electoral process.



Be an Ethical Leader

1. Be authentic -> Be yourself!

- Respect everyone in your community like family and friends.
- Be sincere, positive, and genuine in person and with your messages.

2. Be transparent -> Be honest!

- Share relevant information that will help others.
- Explain your position that your message is clear and cannot be perceived as one with a hidden agenda.

3. Be inclusive -> Be communicative!

- Establish good relationships with those you are speaking or engaging with in-person and online to build trust between you and your community.
- Facilitate inclusive conversations that engage everyone involved in the discussion in particular those from different backgrounds or who might be a bit shy.

4. Take action -> Combat fake news and disparaging remarks!

- Check information by asking a relevant official like an election authority or administrator or by looking online for a second reliable source.
- Report false or fake news to relevant authorities in person or on social media accounts like Facebook when you notice them.

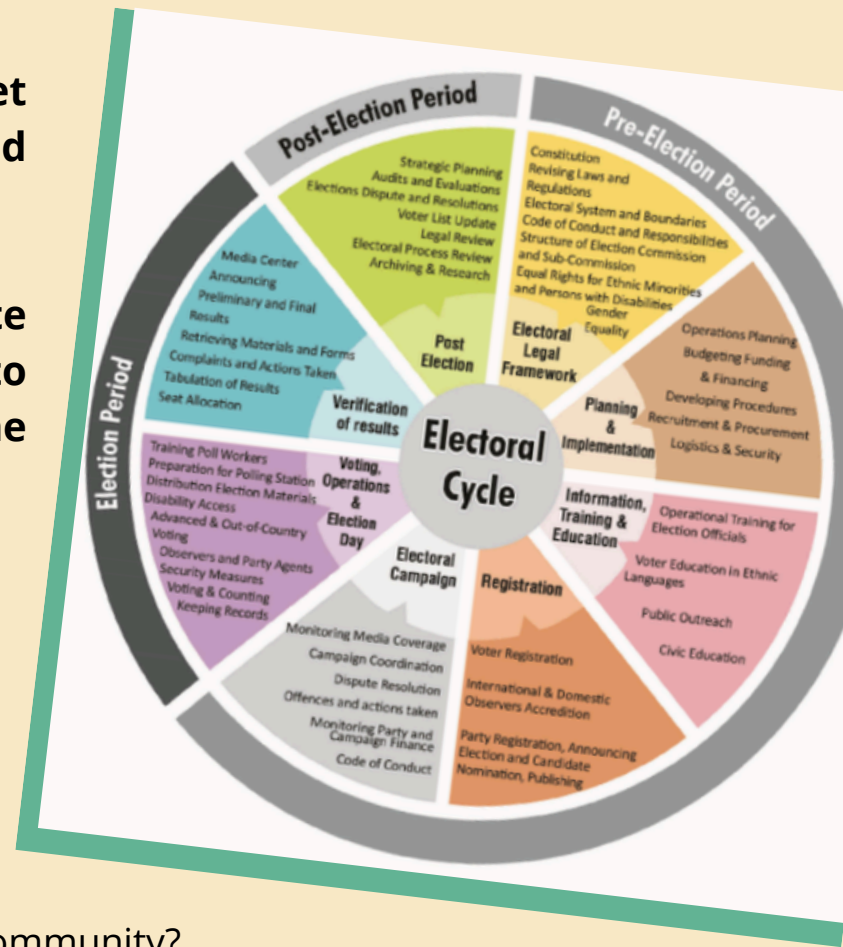


**Share accurate and
factual information!
Bring awareness to the
importance of
participating on
Election Day!**

Youth Participation in Elections

Write down the ways you can get involved in your assigned period on your own handout.

One person from each group will write your group answers on stickies to post on the big electoral cycle at the front of the room.



Questions to consider...

- What actions can you take?
- Where can you take a leadership role?
- How can you bring awareness to your community?
- How can you mobilize your community to participate?
- Where can young people from across PNG with different backgrounds get involved?

Youth Participation in Elections



Day 2

Voter Education

In this session, you will learn about voter education and how to create inclusive formats to ensure messages reach all eligible voters in your community.

Creating Voter Education Messages

In this session, you will learn about the information needed to create informative, accurate, and effective voter education messages.

Community Mobilization

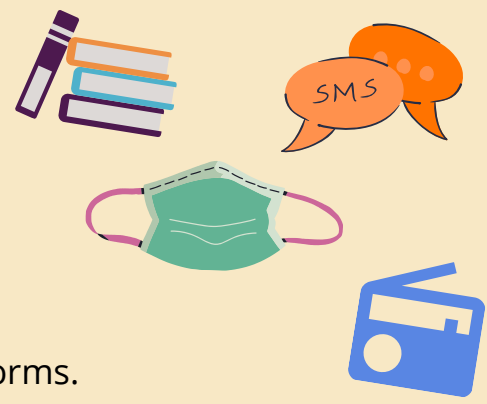
In this session, you will learn about different types of communities, examine the similarities and differences between diverse communities, and explore how they can become engaged and mobilize their own communities.

Stakeholder Engagement

In this session, you will learn how to identify stakeholders and it is important to engage stakeholders in community and country processes like elections.



Voter Education



Barriers to engaging diverse groups of young voters:

- Lack of infrastructure including phone and internet access.
- Living in a remote or rural area.
- Lack of language access.
- Lack of visual images to convey information.
- Societal stigma such as familial and cultural perceptions and norms.
- Social distancing.
- Others?
- _____

When designing materials...

- Make them easy-to-read by using simple language.
- Use braille, symbols, and pictures.
- Add alt-text for digital photos, sign language interpretation, and transcripts to videos.
- Represent all identity groups such as young women, young people with disabilities, young people from different ethnic backgrounds and regional areas of Uganda.
- Use diverse formats like radio, posters, social media, door to door campaigns, pamphlets, etc.

When engaging young people with disabilities...

- For persons who are blind, be sure to use braille when possible, describe documents and photos, and speak all information out loud and slowly.
- For persons who are deaf, be sure to use symbols and pictures and use transcripts at the bottom of videos as well as sign language interpretation.
- For persons with intellectual disabilities, be sure to use simple language and symbols and images as well as sign language interpretation.

When engaging young people in remote or rural areas with little or no access to phone and internet...

- Plan activities ahead of time so that enough time is built in for information to reach stakeholders by word of mouth or door to door.
- Consider coordinating activities closer to remote areas where young people from multiple areas could access the same point.

When engaging young people under a health pandemic

- Bring hand sanitizer for yourself and others.
- Bring circle discs or identify markers in the dirt where people can sit while remaining at least 6 feet apart.

Creating Voter Education Messages

Voter education seeks to:

- Provide information that is tied to specific electoral events and brings awareness to the rights and responsibilities of voters.
- Raises people's awareness of upcoming elections and their rights and responsibilities.
- Prepares eligible voters to participate.

Use Key Messages - Some key messages that electoral authorities communicate through voter education include those related to:

- Elections and democracy
- Role, responsibility and rights of the voter - the right to vote; the right to vote free of intimidation or fear from others
- Your vote counts and your vote is secret
- Election Day procedures such as COVID-19 safety guidelines

Be Informative & Accessible - Provide all the information that a voter needs on Election Day

- Messages should answer: who? what? when? where? why? how?
- Accessible formats so all eligible voters are informed
- Use audio messages, videos with transcripts, symbols and images, simple language and text, translations

Keep Messages Simple & Consistent

- Mitigates voter confusion and misinterpretation



