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NDI ADDS 2010 DATA TO AFGHANISTAN ELECTIONS MAPPING WEBSITE

Site Now Features Data from 2004, 2005, 2009 and 2010 Elections

WASHINGTON, DC – Complete election data from Afghanistan's 2010 parliamentary polls have been added to the National Democratic Institute's (NDI) innovative online mapping website, www.afghanistanelectiondata.org, NDI said today.

The site now includes data from Afghanistan elections of 2004, 2005, 2009 and 2010, as well as demographic, ethnographic, topographic, security and other information that can be used to create visual analyses of voting patterns and other assessments. Visitors can also download data and maps featured on the site to use for their own purposes.

NDI said the aim of the site is to make the election data more accessible and transparent so that those involved in the Afghan political process, including government officials, political parties and domestic monitoring groups, as well as the international community can use the information to improve future elections.

Using a data browser with tools to manage a series of maps, filters and overlays, the site provides ways to segment and visualize vote count data from a countrywide, provincial, district and polling center level. For the 2010 elections, the site features preliminary and final results and lists the final vote count for each of the 2,427 candidates included in the certified results released by the Afghan Independent Election Commission (IEC). The site also includes information on disqualified candidates; the polling centers that were reported closed on election day by the IEC for security or other reasons; the number of male and female votes per province; and the election results overturned due to changes between preliminary and final results.

Data were taken from information released by the IEC and Afghanistan's Electoral Complaints Commission. Other data sources include the Afghan Geodesy and Cartography Head Office, the Afghanistan NGO Safety Office, and the Afghanistan Information Management Services.

The website uses all open source software and makes the data easily available for download in CSV (comma-separated value) format from any filtered data set or map the visitor creates. This open data approach allows site visitors to use their own analysis tools, which provides additional

levels of openness and transparency and seeks to become an example that may foster similar "open government" type initiatives around the world.

This project was conducted in partnership with Development Seed, an online communications firm that specializes in data collection and visualization.

The Institute has been working in Afghanistan since 2002 and fielded an international election observer mission for the Sept. 18 parliamentary elections. Information about NDI's election work can be found here. More information about the Institute is available on the NDI website, www.ndi.org. NDI's election support programs in Afghanistan are funded through a grant from the United States Agency for International Development.