

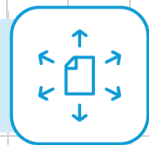
# Overview of Lessons Learned Processes

## Meaningful lessons learned exercises can help:

- **Improve future electoral processes.** They enable EMBs to be more informed, conduct more effective evidence-based planning (including strategic planning), and use the time between elections productively.
- **Build EMBs' institutional resilience and capacity** to manage ongoing and emerging challenges.
- **Enable EMBs to increase collaboration and build trust** with stakeholders, including marginalized groups and the public more widely, as well as support EMBs' accountability.
- **Enhance EMBs' credibility, leadership, and authority,** including in building relationships with other state agencies and in seeking funding. This can help strengthen their perceived and actual independence as well as professionalism.
- **Improve internal EMB functioning.**
- **Promote more responsible behavior by stakeholders.**
- **Support positive electoral development and reform** that is accepted within the EMB and by stakeholders, including to strengthen inclusion efforts.
- **Mitigate the risk** of future election-related conflict and defend democratic space.

These guidelines were developed based on input from a variety of key electoral stakeholders, including:

**9** organizations partnered with to distribute the survey



**57** individual electoral management bodies who responded to the survey



**8** citizen observer groups engaged



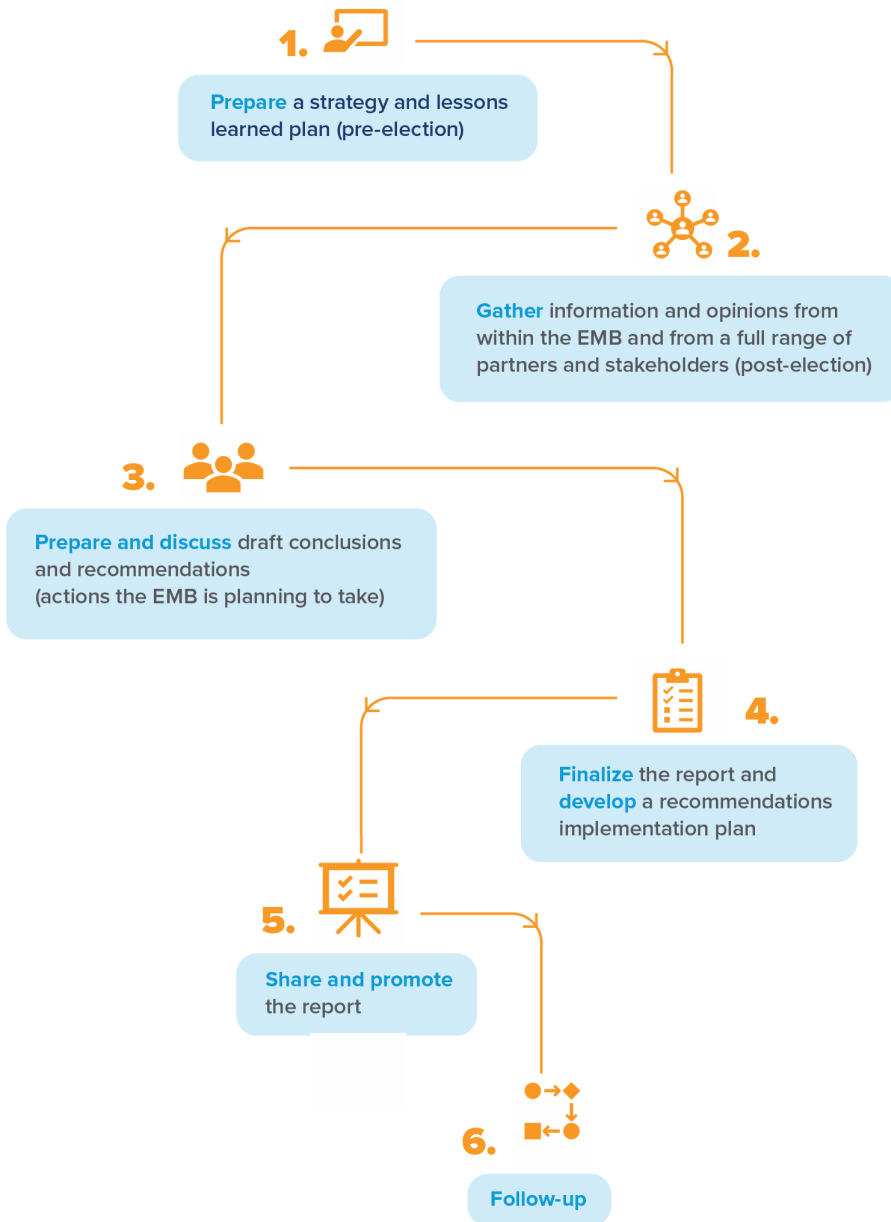
**8** organizations that work with political parties engaged



**32** international electoral experts engaged via survey



## 6 Key Actions for Effective Lessons Learned Processes:



## 7 Key Principles for Effective Lessons Learned Processes:

**1) Establish a framework** for the lessons learned process well before an election and involve stakeholders.

**2) Collect all available information** to enable informed decision-making.

**3) Consult and engage meaningfully** within the EMB and with partners and other stakeholders.

**4) Be constructive** in acknowledging shortcomings and focusing on systemic issues and opportunities.

**5) Draw clear and balanced conclusions,** make specific feasible recommendations for future actions, and link them with EMB planning.

**6) Establish a schedule for monitoring the implementation** of lessons learned recommendations.

**7) Be transparent and accessible** about the lessons learned process, conclusions, recommendations, and the subsequent monitoring of progress.

Developed by IFES in collaboration with:

ACEEEO, the AU, ArabEMBs, the Carter Center, the Commonwealth Secretariat, the European Commission, EPD, GNDEM, International IDEA, IRI, NDI, OAS, OSCE/ODHIR, UN DPPA, and UNDP.

Copyright © 2023 International Foundation for Electoral Systems. All rights reserved.