



## Identification of voters in Sierra Leone

At the request of the UNDP, Zetes produced and delivered the electoral rolls and polling cards for the general elections in Sierra Leone. The project has been executed in record time thanks to Zetes' ABIS skills and experience in producing/personalising cards and in logistics.

Sierra Leone organised residential, legislative and regional general elections in 2012 that were crucial to consolidating democracy in the country. The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), in support of the National Electoral Commission in this process, called on Zetes to:

- create and manage a centralised database that listed all information on voters in Sierra Leone and the associated Automated Biometric Identification System (ABIS)
- supply electoral rolls
- produce and deliver personalised polling cards.

### Organising democratic elections

The main UNDP mission was to make sure that the electoral institutions had the physical and technical means to organise credible elections and to expand the National Electoral Commission's capabilities by improving all the administrative processes, including the registration of voters.

Key elements in executing the objectives defined by the UNDP were therefore the safety of citizens' data, obtaining extremely reliable electoral rolls and correct delivery of polling cards within critical deadlines.

### An efficient AFIS to create reliable lists

Biographical information, photos and fingerprints of voters were registered initially across the country. Where fingerprints were unavailable, the system was supplemented by a facial recognition system. All the information was centralised and stored in Freetown in a structured database. Zetes was then able to use the ABIS system to search for multiple or "duplicate" entries. If certain data had been recorded several times, a warning signal was activated and a State official verified the identity of people involved.





Once the duplications had been removed from the database, the electoral rolls could be drawn up, with each roll corresponding to a polling station.

#### Need for efficient logistics

The rolls were then used to produce and personalise polling cards. Zetes also delivered 2.7 million cards which were then routed to the three thousand polling centres in the country. A logistical challenge was met thanks to an efficient traceability system. Each box of cards was associated with the relevant electoral roll using barcodes. In this way, the National Electoral Commission could easily identify which of the forty pallets of cards received should be sent to which polling centre.

#### Delivery of the ABIS system in under ten days

The UNDP required very short delivery times for this project, in order to meet the electoral timetable fixed originally. The ABIS system was rendered operational in under ten days and the cards were delivered to the authorities in six weeks. Zetes' experience in this type of project - a combination of technical complexity, logistics and tight timetable - was key in meeting the UNDP expectations in terms of both quality and timing.

#### Zetes electoral expertise

As specialists in automatic identification, the Zetes teams have vast experience in voter identification projects. The services on offer cover the entire process:

- Listing
- Data centralisation
- Centralised database management
- Biometric removal of duplicates based on AFIS/ABIS systems

- Delivery of electoral rolls
- Production and personalisation of polling cards
- Data control

Several similar projects have already been successful in Democratic Republic of Congo (2006 and 2011), Togo (2007, 2011 and 2012) and Benin (2010). The neurotechnology algorithms used for the ABIS system implemented by Zetes in Sierra Leone have also been employed for population identification projects in Côte d'Ivoire and Chad.

Zetes' expertise extends to identifying civil servants and citizens in the widest sense, including the production and personalisation of high-security documents like electronic ID cards, biometric electronic passports, driving licences, biometric visas, medical cards, etc.

#### Key figures

- Implementation of the ABIS system in **under ten days**
- Cards delivered in **six weeks**
- **2.7 million** cards produced
- **3000** polling centres

#### A few dates for the project - 2012

- 14 May: contract signed
- 16 May: first tests of the ABIS system
- 22 May: supervision visit by UNDP and the National Electoral Commission to the Zetes premises in Brussels
- 22 June: delivery of electoral rolls and polling cards
- 17 November: general elections took place