Fact sheet on Voter turnout and relevant Tally Centre figures

The Independent Election Commission of Afghanistan (IEC), in order to ensure the transparency of the electoral Process, is publishing the necessary figures relevant to the 2010 Wolesi Jirga elections. The figures, being released by the Commission today, include the final preliminary figures, with an explanatory account for some of the categories which were announced as preliminary election statistics on 20th October, 2010.

Bearing in mind some of the concerns raised regarding the voter turnout figures reported earlier, the Commission would like to clarify that it prepared for an estimated 12 million eligible voters for 2010 Wolesi Jirga elections, of which 4.271.908 or 35 % were able to participate in the election process, on 18th September, 2010. However, it is worth emphasizing that the total number of the votes recorded from the forms received at the IEC tally center was 5,739.915; the table below provides a detailed breakdown:

Summary of final Tally Centre figures and the turnout				
Valid Votes	**Invalidated Votes**	**Invalid Votes**	**Exclusions**	**Total (4 categories)**
4,265,354	6,554	137,225	1,330,782	5,739,915

The IEC announced that in total 6,813 PS were audited which represents 38.39 % from all 17,744 polling stations (PS) opened on 18 September. Of these, 3,345 were audited based on suspicion or obscurity of votes, as follows: 81 PSs were audited, 121 PSs were recounted and 3,143 were both audited and recounted. The rest of audits (3,468) were the result of automatic audits following the four triggers established in the tallying procedures;

The IEC decided to exclude results from 2,543 PSs (14.33% of all PSs) based on the following grounds; a) the audits and/or recounts; b) serious misconduct and failure to adhere to election procedures at the PCs as reported to the IEC, and review of these results forms by the Commissioners, and c) turnout in the results forms with 600 or above. Of these, 604 PCs were completely excluded (all the PSs of the PC excluded, representing 1,723 PSs) and 584 PCs were the object of partial exclusion (some, but not all PSs of the PC were excluded, representing 820 PSs).

The total number of votes excluded is 1,330,782. The Commission would like to clarify that the total number of valid votes reported in the IEC press release of the 20th October is 4,265,347 while the number of valid votes reported by the tally center is 4,271,908. The difference of 6,561 votes roughly corresponds to the votes “invalidated” because the candidates had been excluded from the final list of candidates, while their names and details still existed on the ballot papers.

The IEC would like to reiterate that these results are preliminary and may change depending on the ECC decisions. The IEC will announce the Final Results as soon as it has received and implemented the final decisions of the ECC.

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