

Gender Election Observation Missions GEOM

Experience

Gender Concerns International pioneered a series of unique and successful Gender Election Observation Mission (GEOM) in several countries to observe if women have equal opportunities for a democratic electoral participation.

Together with partner organisations, Gender Concerns has observed elections in Pakistan (2008 and 2013), Tunisia (2011 and 2014), Morocco (2011, 2015 and 2016), Libya (2012), and Myanmar (2015), and The Netherlands (2017).

The GEOM: Aims and Targets

GEOMs are designed as a tool to support women's participation in democratic electoral processes and to promote female leadership and gender equality at key decision-making levels.

“Women are catalysts for change and women’s organisations need respect, recognition, and resources to bring about this change.” –

Sabra Bano, Director

The GEOM: Methodology

GEOMs are international election observation missions, managed and led by women election-experts and are conducted in partnership with major national women and human rights organisations. GEOM promotes female leadership and inclusive governance within the framework of UN Sustainable Development Goals and UNSCR 1325 targets. The Missions document and denounce any inequalities and discrimination against women that might prevent their full political engagement and contribution to the formation and functioning of governments.



Impact and Follow-up

- Capacity Building
- Training and skills Development
- Lobby and Advocacy
- Supporting Women's and civil Society Organizations

The Netherlands, 2017



To mark 100 years of women's right to vote in the Netherlands, the GEOM observed the Dutch parliamentary elections held on 15 March 2017. The GEOM report holds recommendations for the government, political parties, the Electoral Council and the media.

Morocco, 2011, 2015 and 2016



A gender analysis of political processes and policies in Morocco showed that a more balanced participation would not result from only a formal mandate for women.

Myanmar, 2015



Gender Concerns International was one of the few international organisations honoured to receive an invitation to observe the first democratic elections in Myanmar in 2015.

Tunisia, 2011 and 2014



The GEOM 2011 Mission in Tunisia was the first of its kind in the region. Following the GEOM 2011, the largest international mission in 2014 comprised of 10 International and 110 Domestic Female Election Observers and was deployed across 22 governorates in the country.

Libya, 2012



The team of Domestic Observers and six experienced International Observers were deployed across the country. The Mission concluded that the level of women's empowerment achieved to date is a benchmark to beat and not a threshold to be maintained.

Pakistan, 2008 and 2011



The mission trained local female observers and met with various stakeholders. GEOM recommendations were presented to the Election Commission of Pakistan.