Resonate! Yemen
Learn. Engage. Contribute.

مؤسسة حلول

ارصد
ersod.net

Youth Election Monitoring Project



Election Assessment Report

USAID FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

The Joint Electoral Assistance Project (JEAP)

LinkInTime لنك إن تايم المحدودة

elaghil.teck TECH.ENVIRONMENT

MobileActive.org

CitiVox

NDI

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Resonate! Yemen and Holool foundation would like to thank all our project partners who made this project possible: EC-UNDP Joint Electoral Assistance Project, US Agency for International Development (USAID), the National Democratic Institute (NDI), LinkInTime Ltd., Citivox, MobileActive, and ElAghil Teck. Special thanks to Rasha Jarhum from UNDP and Heather Therrien from NDI for their continuous support and encouragement throughout the different stages of the project.

Resonate! Yemen and Holool foundation would also like to thank all the youth volunteers whose dedication, eagerness and enthusiasm touched everyone they had contact with.

© Resonate! Yemen & Holool Foundation February 2012. All rights reserved. No part of this publication may be reproduced, stored in a retrieval system or transmitted in any form or by any means electronic, mechanical, photocopying, recording or otherwise, without full attribution. Resonate! Yemen & Holool Foundation welcome and encourage the utilization and dissemination of the material included in this publication.

Election Assessment Report

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Executive Summary 5

Introduction 6

About Resonate! 6

About Holool Foundation 7

Project Background 8

Project Context 8

Project Objectives 8

Project Implementation 9

Monitoring Results 10

Election Materials 11

Opening Time 14

Use of Government or Military Vehicles to Transport Voters 16

Encouraging People to Boycott Elections 18

Bribing Voters 20

Intimidating Voters 22

Ballot Box Stuffing 24

Closing time 25

Voters in line at closing 27

Acts of Violence 28

Project Partners 30

EC-UNDP Joint Electoral Assistance Project (JEAP). 30

USAID 31

National Democratic Institute (NDI) 31

LinkInTime Ltd. 32

CitiVox 32

MobileActive 33

ElAghil Teck 33

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Resonate! Yemen and Holool foundation implemented the "Ersod" project during the early presidential elections held in Yemen on 21st February 2012. The project aimed at ensuring a more ***participatory and inclusive political scene in Yemen*** through achieving the following objectives:

a) Engaging youth in the elections process by training 1000 youth election monitors and deploying them in a randomly selected sample of election centers in the Capital Secretariat, Taiz, Aden, Hudeidah and Ibb governorates.

b) Engaging citizens across Yemen in reporting election day incidents by establishing a citizen reporting channel between the public and the Supreme Committee for Elections & Referendums (SCER) using SMS technology.

c) Building and testing the technology infrastructure required to deploy SMS election monitoring in Yemen.

d) Providing seasonal employment opportunities for Yemeni youth as election monitors.

e) Serving as a pilot project to test these new concepts on a smaller scale during the Presidential elections in order to use the lessons learned from this pilot project in launching a nation-wide Youth Election Monitoring project during the Parliamentary elections at the end of the transitional period.

In total, over ***9,000 SMS messages*** were received and processed from youth monitors and the general public on elections day. The youth monitors were stationed at ***313 election centers*** in the 5 target governorates. Public reports were made available online at ***www.ersod.org*** . Following are the highlights of the youth monitoring results:

- *31 election centers did not have the complete required election materials, with the" voters list" being the top reported missing item*
- *164 election centers did not open on time at 8:00am. All centers were open by 9:00am*
- *29 election centers reported the use of government or military vehicles to transport voters*
- *16 election centers reported incidents of encouraging people to boycott elections, 7 election centers reported bribing of voters, and 8 election centers reported voter intimidation*
- *35 election centers reported incidents of violence, with the majority of reports being incidents of riots.*
- *33 election centers reported incident of stuffing ballot boxes*
- *171 election centers did not close on time at 6:00pm, with the majority closing at 8:00pm, and only 9 centers still having voters in line at time of closing*

This report gives a background of the Ersod project together with the details of the results received from the youth monitors. Given that Resonate! and Holool are not professionally qualified to give an overall judgment/assessment of the elections process, this report will only provide the raw results obtained from the youth election monitors, and will be shared with the concerned election monitoring entities such as the Supreme Committee for Election & Referrendum (SCER), Yemen Election Monitoring Network (YEMN), the National Democratic Institute (NDI), and the International Foundation of Electoral Systems (IFES).

INTRODUCTION

ABOUT RESONATE!

Resonate! Yemen
Learn. Engage. Contribute.

The Resonate! Yemen initiative was established in January 2010 by a group of Yemeni youth living in Canada with the initial objective of rallying the voices of Yemeni youth from around the world to reach out to the international community through the January 27, 2010 "Friends of Yemen" conference held in London, UK.

The first project was a success and the positive responses that the initiative received encouraged the group to further develop the idea into a sustainable effort. The focus of the group shifted, though, from reaching out to international policy makers to building dialogue channels with Yemen's decision makers. The team has set the vision of the Resonate! initiative to ***contribute to building sustainable policies in Yemen that take into consideration the input of Yemeni youth as major stakeholders in policy design and implementation.***

The new Resonate! Foundation, now registered with the Ministry of Social Affairs and Labour, has defined its mission to ***bring the voices and ideas of young Yemenis to Yemen's public policy discourse and support youth action on issues of national and international significance.***

The foundation plans to realize its mission through:

a) *Providing opportunities for young Yemenis to build policy analysis and civic leadership skills*

b) *Encouraging policy makers in Yemen to accept youth as major stakeholders in policy design and implementation*

c) *Developing and articulating policy proposals on issues national and international significance*

d) *Implementing a select number of initiatives developed through Resonate's public policy deliberations*

e) *Becoming the resource of choice for Government, private sector, and local/international NGOs wishing to engage the perspectives and talents of Yemeni youth who have an interest in public affairs*

ABOUT HOLOOL FOUNDATION

Holool Foundation is a civil non-profit social development foundation aimed at combating poverty and unemployment and their effects. Holool was founded on 31st of May 2007, and obtained its license No. (292) from the Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs on 28th December 2009.

We are distinguished in this sector through our methods, where Holool studies and analyzes the social problems associated with poverty and unemployment and contributes to find and implement solutions that challenge poverty and its effects.

During the past four years Holool was successful in establishing and sustaining productive Small & Medium Enterprises (SME's) such as "Be Aidina" to produce homemade bread and distribute it commercially and "Forsa" festival in order to market family's products. Holool contributed in several conferences to share our experiences such as first national conference for productive associations and productive families.

Holool's mission is to motivate and mobilize the efforts and energize people to the fight against poverty, unemployment and achieve economic growth and social stability.

PROJECT BACKGROUND

PROJECT CONTEXT

The recent events in Yemen transformed hundreds of thousands of Yemeni youth into grassroots political activists, ending many years of youth disenfranchisement in Yemeni politics. It is imperative to sustain this momentum and enable Yemeni youth to continue playing an active and positive role in shaping the political landscape of Yemen.

After a year of protests and demonstrations, early presidential elections took place on the 21st of February 2012. The early presidential elections mark the beginning of a ***two-year transitional period*** in which a ***national dialogue*** will be held, ***constitutional reforms*** will take place, ***election law changes*** will be agreed upon and implemented, and all this will conclude with ***parliamentary elections.***

Given that the Presidential elections were run with a consensus candidate, Resonate! and Holool Foundation designed this ***pilot project*** to introduce and test new concepts to the election process in Yemen with the goal of fully implementing these concepts in upcoming referendums and elections in Yemen.

PROJECT OBJECTIVES

The overall goal of the project is to ***strengthen democratic governance*** in Yemen and ensure a more ***participatory and inclusive political scene***. The specific objectives of the project are:

a) *Engaging youth in the elections process by t**raining 1000 youth election monitors** and deploying them in a randomly selected sample of election centers in the **Capital Secretariat, Taiz, Aden, Hudeidah and Ibb governorates.***

b) *Engaging citizens across Yemen in reporting election day incidents by establishing a **citizen reporting channel** between the public and the Supreme Committee for Elections & Referendums (SCER) using SMS technology.*

c) ***Building and testing** the technology **infrastructure** required to deploy SMS election monitoring in Yemen.*

d) *Providing **seasonal employment opportunities** for Yemeni youth as election monitors.*

e) *Serving as a **pilot project** to test these **new concepts on a smaller scale** during the Presidential elections in order to **use the lessons learned** from this pilot project in launching a **nation-wide Youth Election Monitoring** project during the **Parliamentary elections** at the end of the transitional period.*

PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION

To implement this project, LinkInTime provided an SMS short code 3377 to receive SMS reports. This code was given to the youth monitors as well as publicized to the public. The message advertised to the public was to "report any violations in the elections process by sending an SMS to 3377 with the location and details of the violation".

Each youth monitor was assigned to an election center and provided with a pocket guide to send their SMS reports. The guide provided monitors with the questions to answer, and the format in which to send their SMS reports. Youth monitors were asked to start their SMS messages with their Election Monitor ID assigned by the Supreme Committee for Elections & Referendum (SCER). Using this ID our systems were able to differentiate between messages received from youth monitors and those received from the public.

All SMS messages were received and aggregated by LinkInTime in Yemen. These messages were then uploaded to CitiVox servers using a customized Application Programming Interface (API). Once received by CitiVox, youth operation room monitors were able to review these messages on an admin interface and decide whether to make these messages viewable on the public map and public reports section on ***www.ersod.org*** or whether to archive these messages in their designated folders.

Figure 2 below shows a s***ummary of the reporting flow*** both from the public and from the youth election monitors.



Figure1: Reporting Flowchart

MONITORING RESULTS

Over ***9,000 SMS messages*** were received and processed from youth monitors and the general public on elections day. This section contains the compilation of the raw data received from monitors stationed ***at 313 election centers*** in the following 5 governorates:

- Capital Secretariat: 169 election centers monitored out of 179 total election centers

- Taiz: 55 election centers monitored out of 494 total election centers

- Aden: 10 election centers monitored out of 130 total election centers

- Hudeidah: 48 election centers monitored out of 515 total election centers

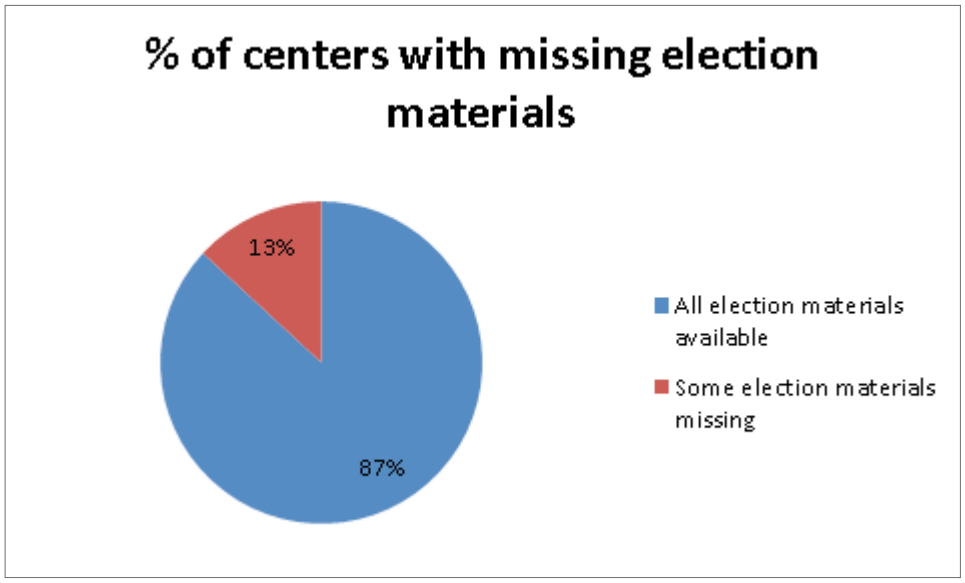
- Ibb: 31 election centers monitored out of 488 total election centers

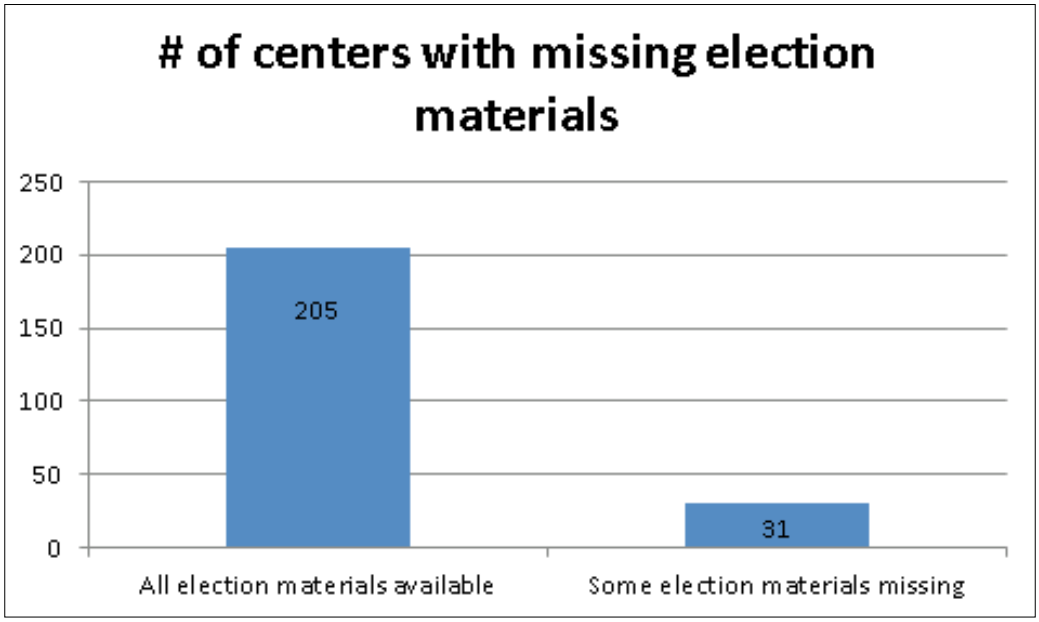
It should be noted that due to the deteriorating security situation in Aden on elections day, the majority of the monitors in Aden were not able to make it to the election centers. The operations room received multiple messages from the monitors in Aden stating that roads are blocked, and they hear gunshots and explosions which limited their ability to get to the election centers. Therefore, the reports received from Aden in the results section below are minimal but were nonetheless included.

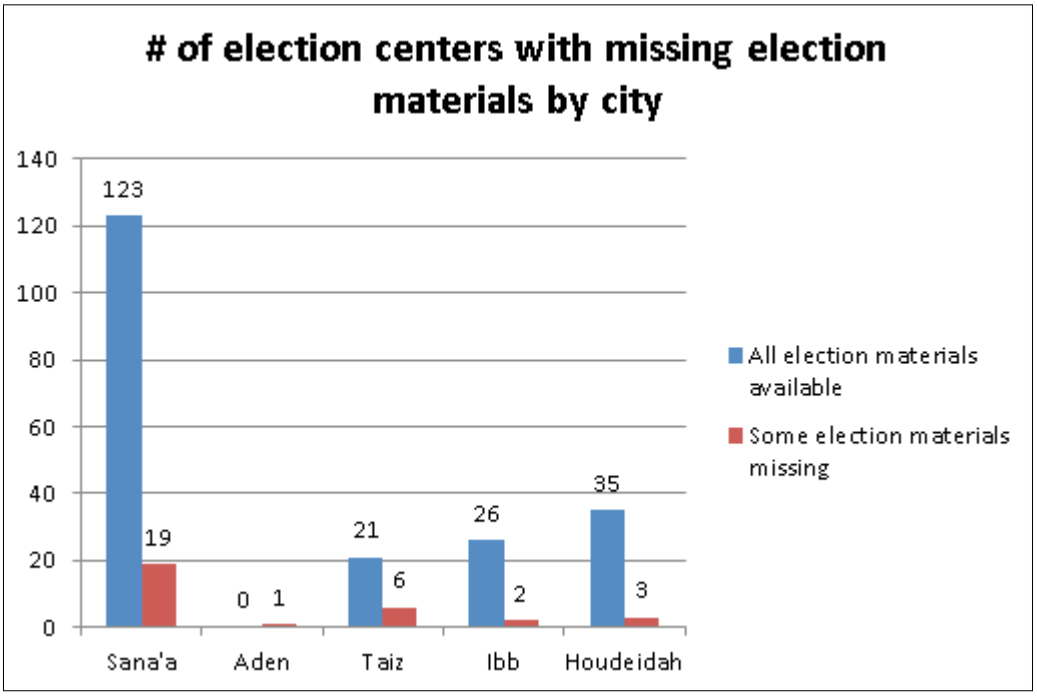
Given that Resonate! and Holool are not professionally qualified to give an overall judgment/assessment of the elections process, this report will only provide the raw results obtained from the youth election monitors, and will be shared with the concerned election monitoring entities such as SCER, Yemen Election Monitoring Network (YEMN), the NDI, and the International Foundation of Electoral Systems.

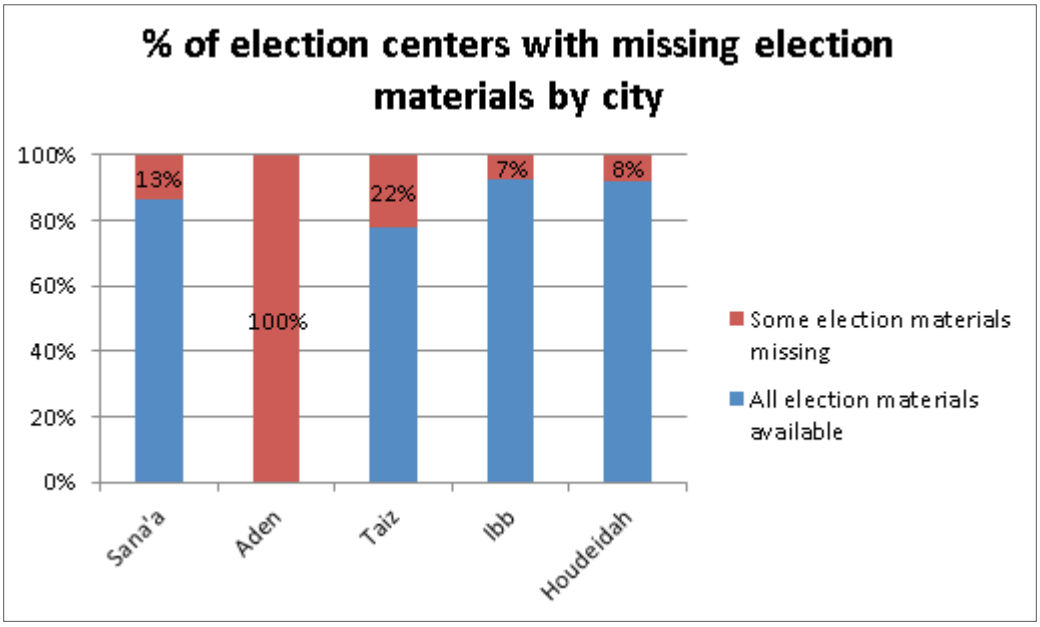
ELECTION MATERIALS

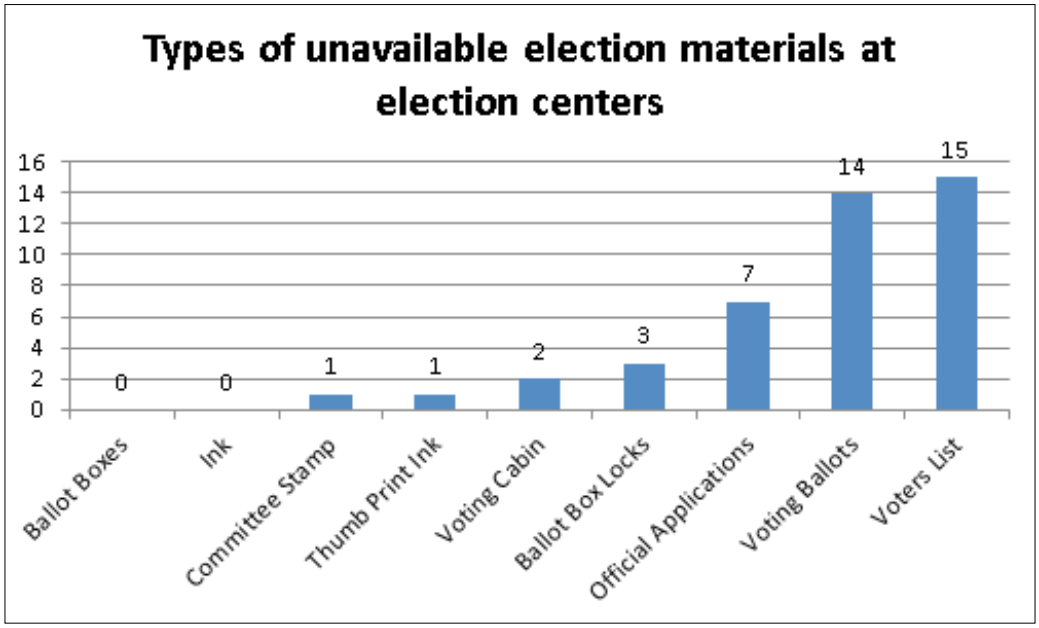
The question answered by youth election monitors was: "Were all election materials available at the center, if not, what materials are missing?" Answers to this question were received from a total of ***236 election centers.*** Of these 236 centers, ***31 election centers (13%)*** did not have all the election materials available. The distribution is shown in the following graphs.




# of centers with missing election materials
250
200
150
100
50
0
205
31
All election materials available
Some election materials missing

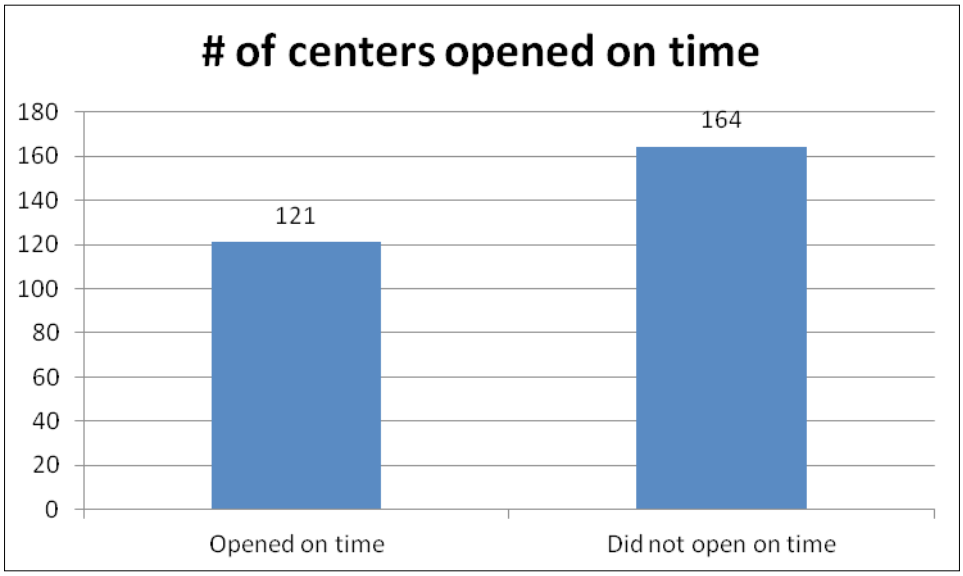

# of election centers with missing election materials by city
140
120
100
80
60
40
20
0
123
19
0
1
21
6
26
2
35
3
Sana'a
Aden
Taiz
Ibb
Houdeidah
All election materials available
Some election materials missing

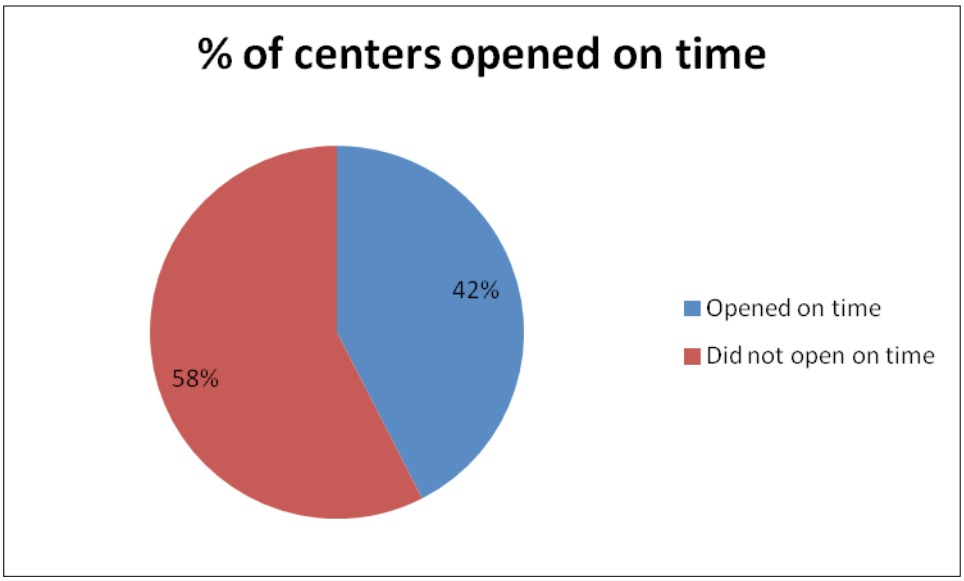

% of election centers with missing election materials by city
100%
80%
60%
40%
20%
0%
13%
100%
22%
7%
8%
Sana'a
Aden
Taiz
Ibb
Houdeidah
Some election materials missing
All election materials available


Types of unavailable election materials at election centers
16
14
12
10
8
6
4
2
0
0
0
1
1
2
3
7
14
15
Ballot Boxes
Ink
Committee Stamp
Thumb Print Ink
Voting Cabin
Ballot Box Locks
Official Applications
Voting Ballots
Voters List

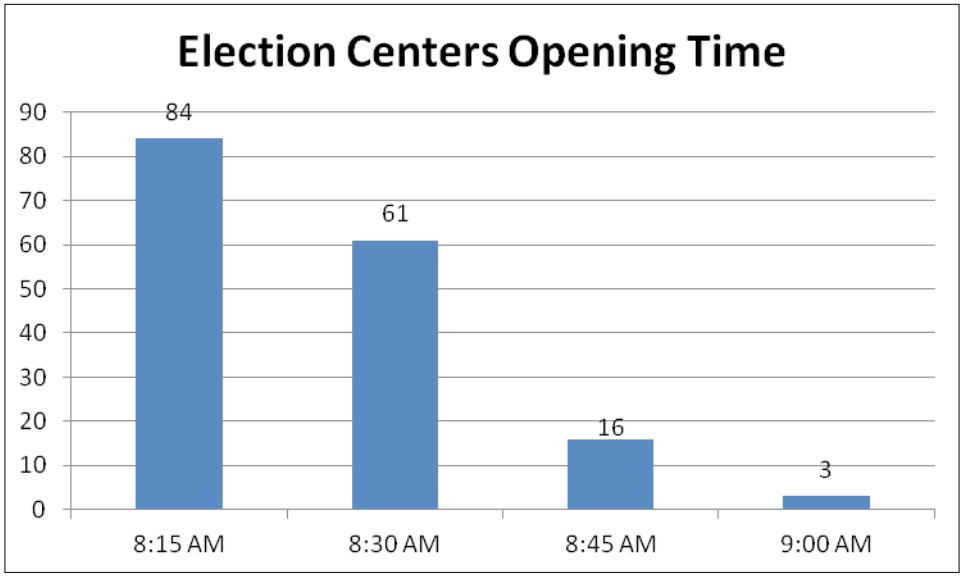
OPENING TIME

The question answered by youth election monitors was: ***"Did the voting process open at the scheduled time (8:00am?)"*** Answers to this question were received from a total of ***285 election centers.*** Of these 285 centers, ***164 centers (58%) did not open on time.*** The distribution is shown in the following graphs



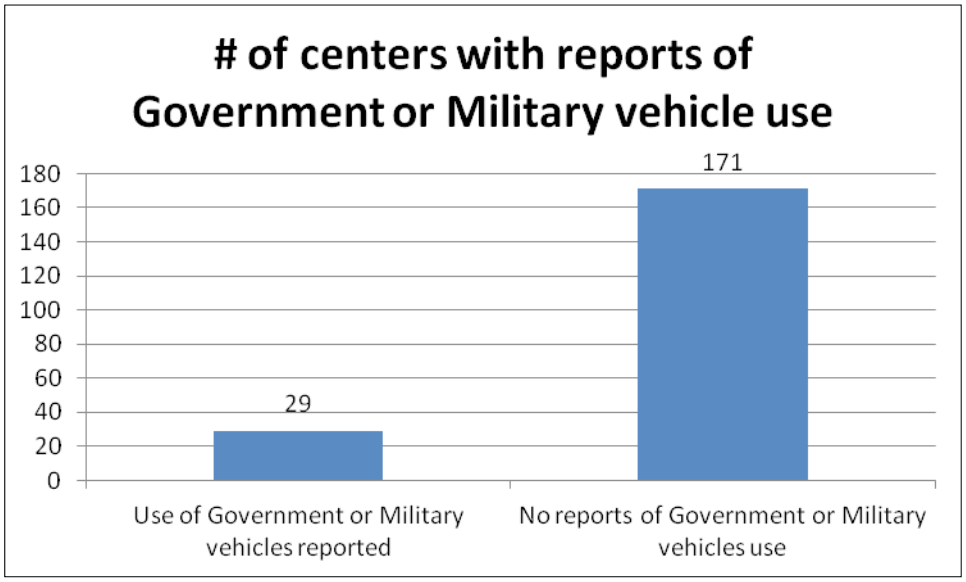


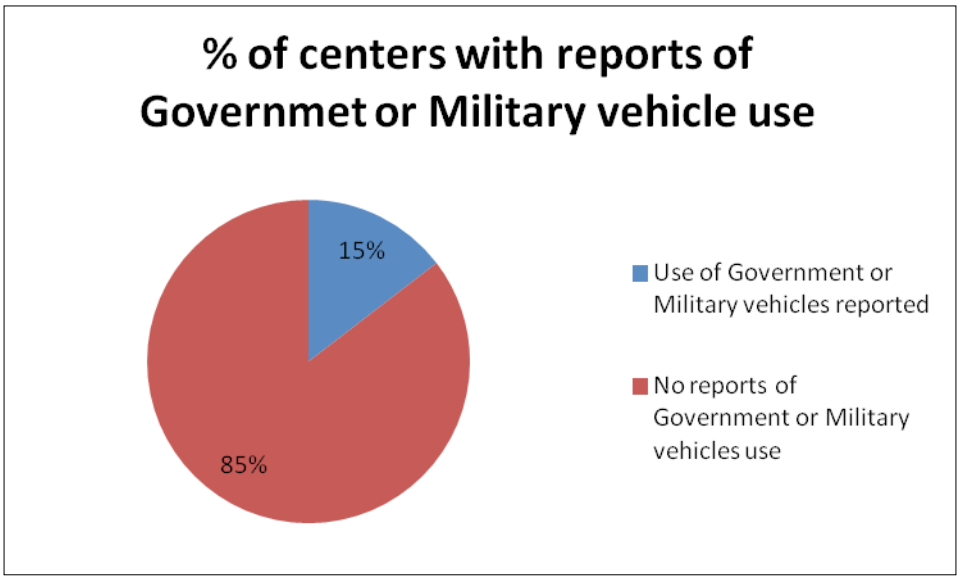
The graph below shows the distribution of the closing times at the 171 centers that did not open at 8:00am.

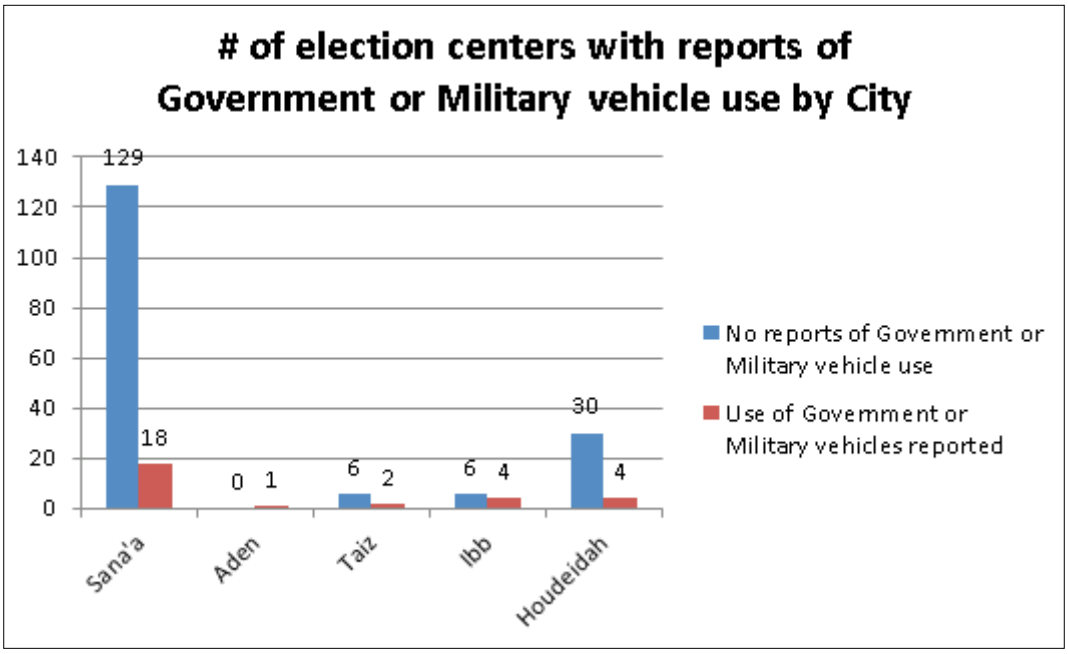


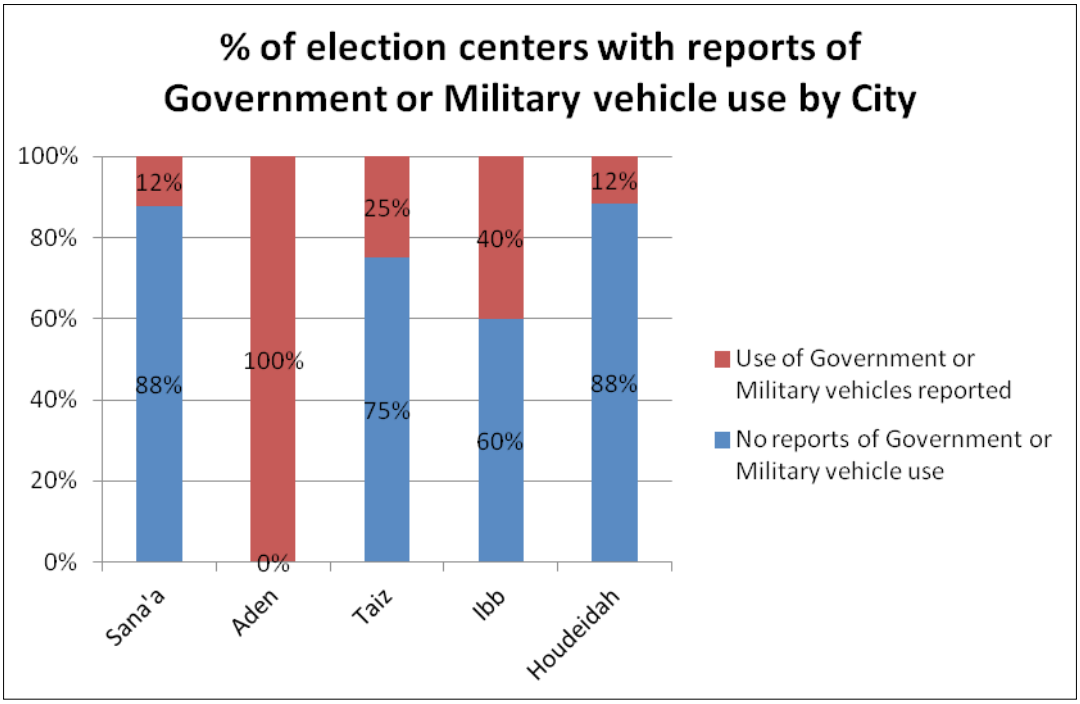
USE OF GOVERNMENT OR MILITARY VEHICLES TO TRANSPORT VOTERS

The question answered by youth election monitors was: ***"Did you notice the use of Government or Military vehicles to transport voters?"*** Answers to this question were received from a total of ***200 election centers***. Of these 200 centers, ***29 centers (15%) reported incidents of the use of Government/Military vehicles to transport voters.*** The distribution is shown in the following graphs.



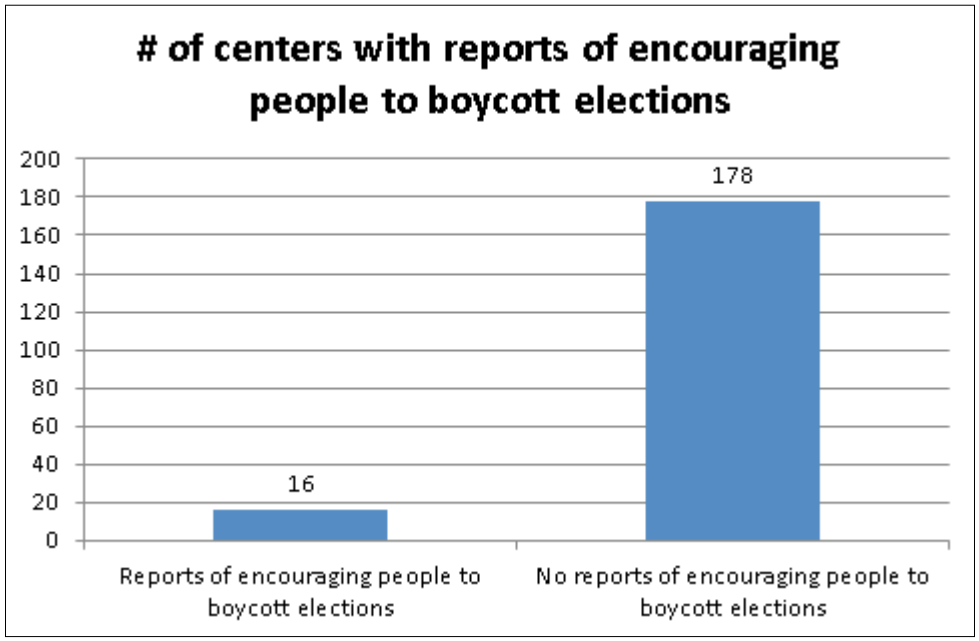


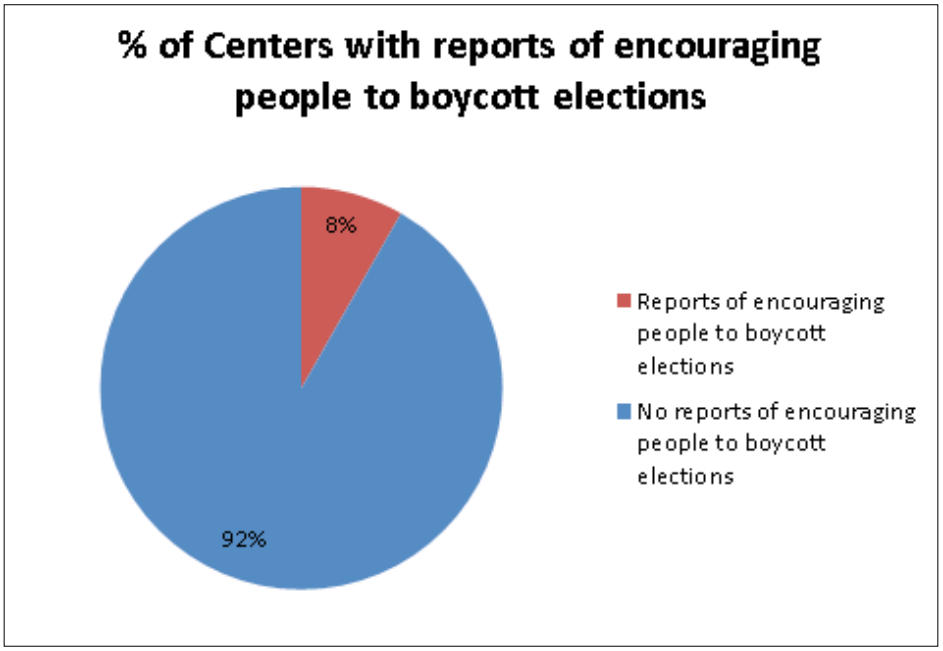

# of election centers with reports of Government or Military vehicle use by City
140
120
100
80
60
40
20
0
129
18
0
1
6
2
6
4
30
4
Sana'a
Aden
Taiz
Ibb
Houdeidah
No reports of Government or Military vehicle use
Use of Government or Military vehicles reported

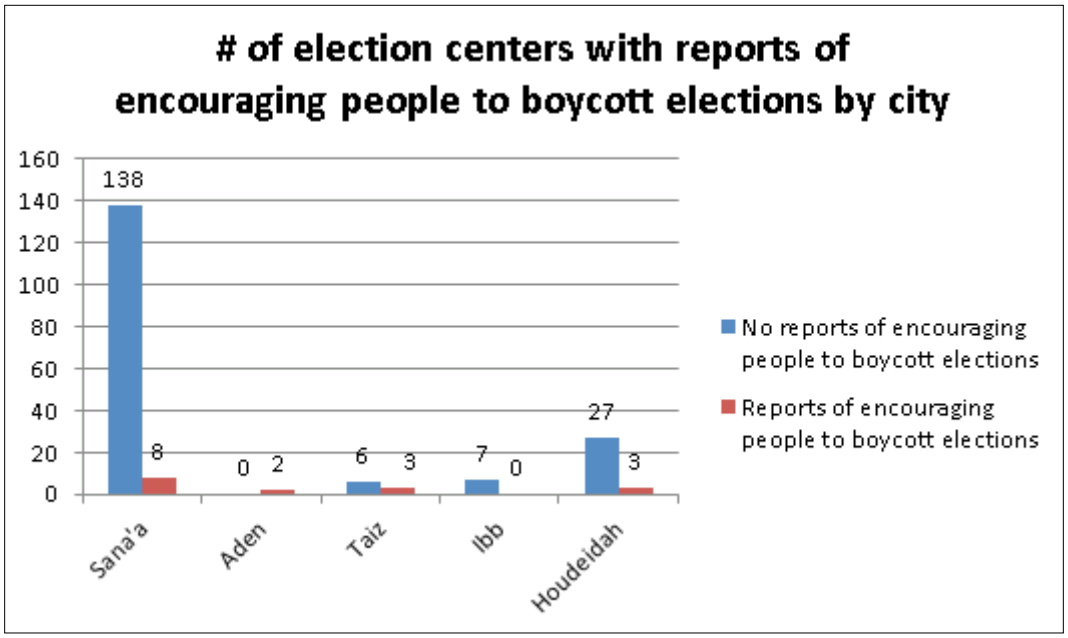

% of election centers with reports of Government or Military vehicle use by City
100%
80%
60%
40%
20%
0%
12%
88%
100%
0%
25%
75%
40%
60%
12%
88%
Sana'a
Aden
Taiz
Ibb
Houdeidah
Use of Government or Military vehicles reported
No reports of Government or Military vehicle use

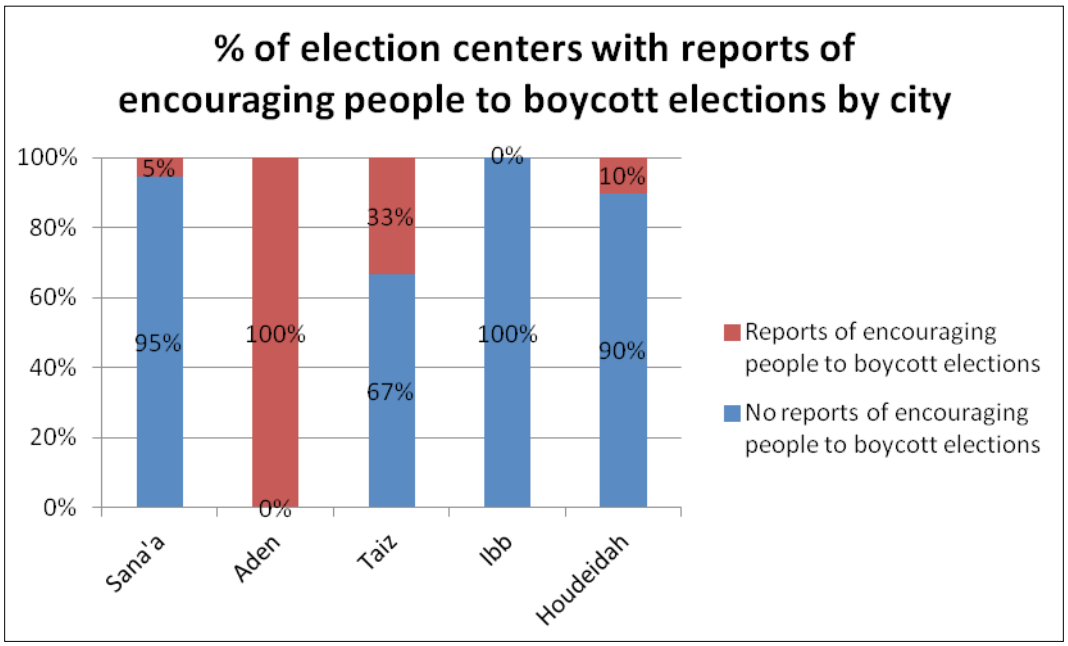
ENCOURAGING PEOPLE TO BOYCOTT ELECTIONS

The question answered by youth election monitors was: ***"Did you notice the use of any methods to encourage people to boycott elections?"*** Answers to this question were received from a total of ***194 election centers.*** Of these 194 centers, ***16 centers (8%)*** reported incidents of encouraging people to boycott elections. The distribution is shown in the following graphs.



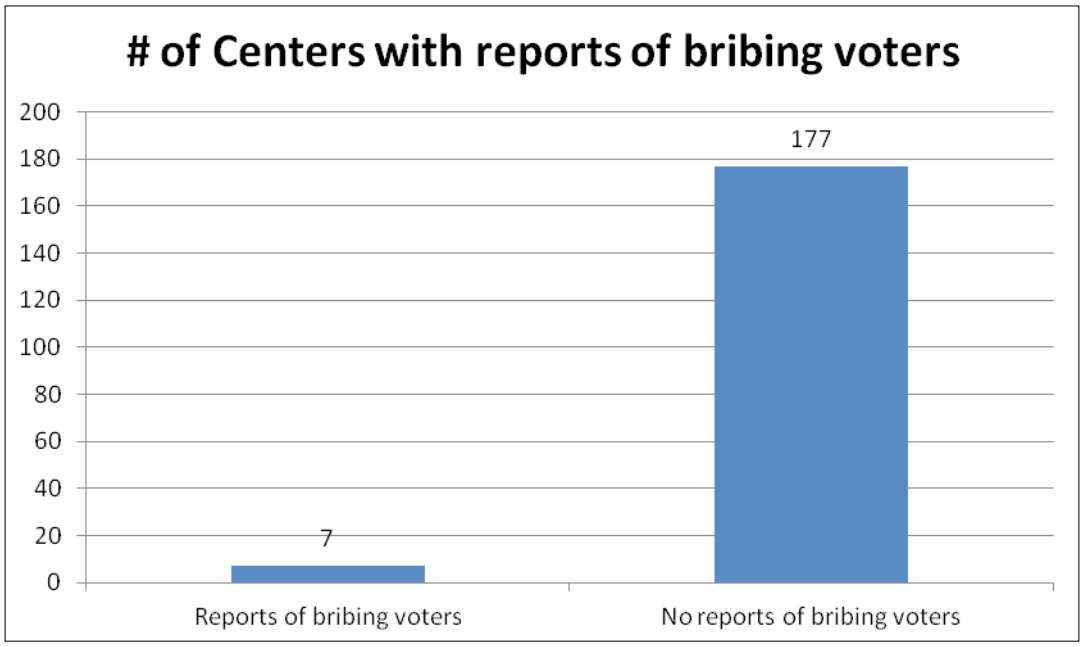


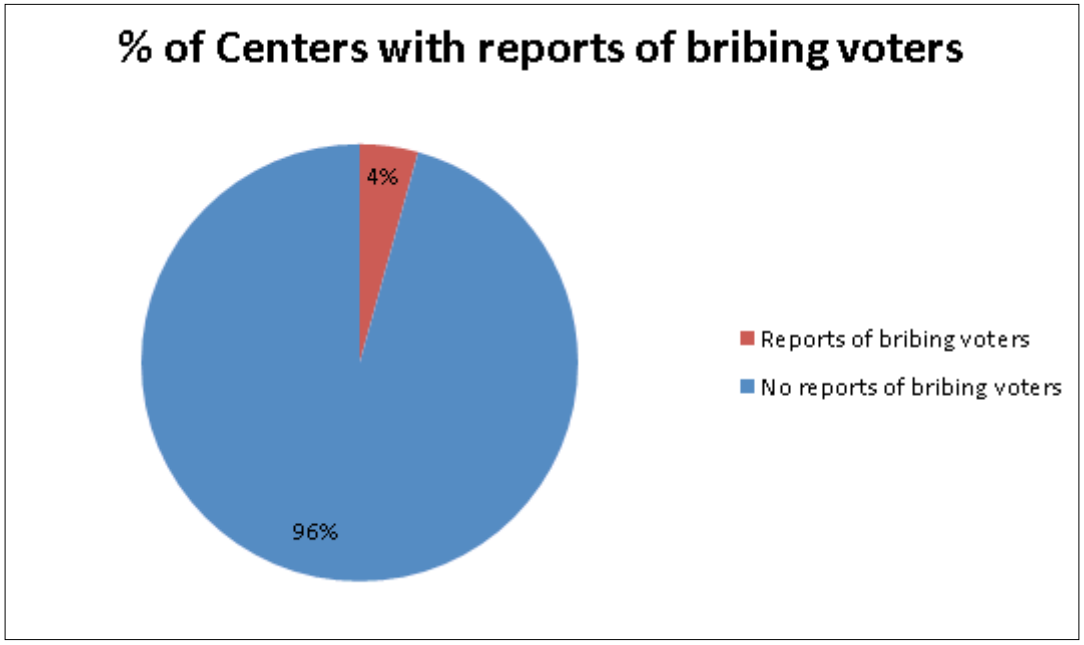

# of election centers with reports of encouraging people to boycott elections by city
160
140
120
100
80
60
40
20
0
138
8
0
2
6
3
7
0
27
3
Sana'a
Aden
Taiz
Ibb
Houdeidah
No reports of encouraging people to boycott elections
Reports of encouraging people to boycott elections

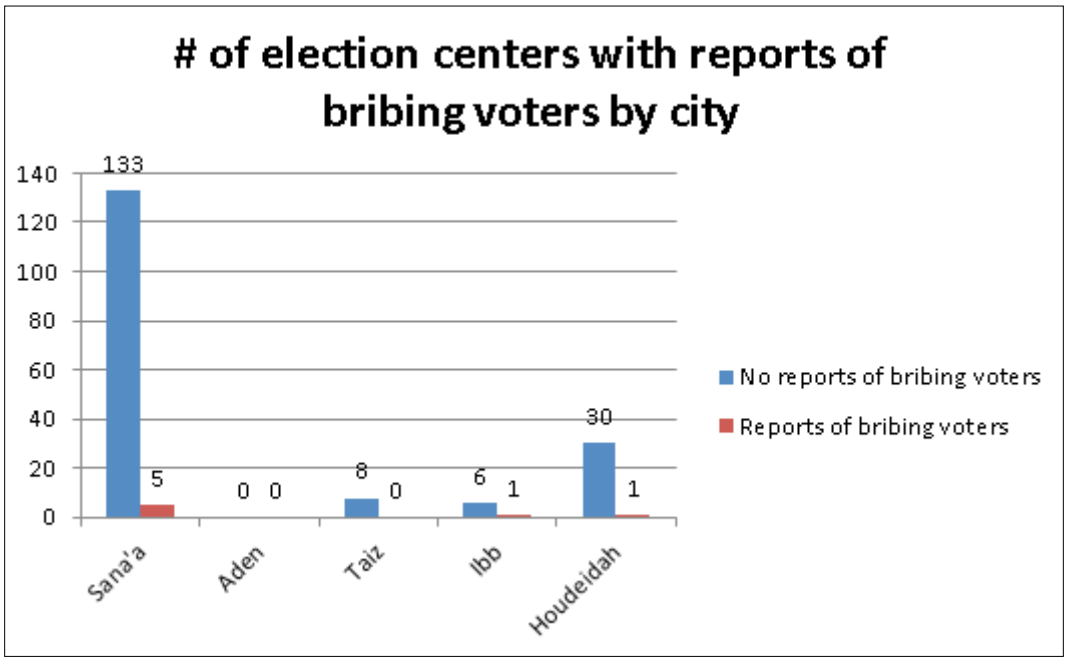

% of election centers with reports of encouraging people to boycott elections by city
100%
80%
60%
40%
20%
0%
5%
95%
100%
0%
33%
67%
0%
100%
10%
90%
Sana'a
Aden
Taiz
Ibb
Houdeidah
Reports of encouraging people to boycott elections
No reports of encouraging people to boycott elections

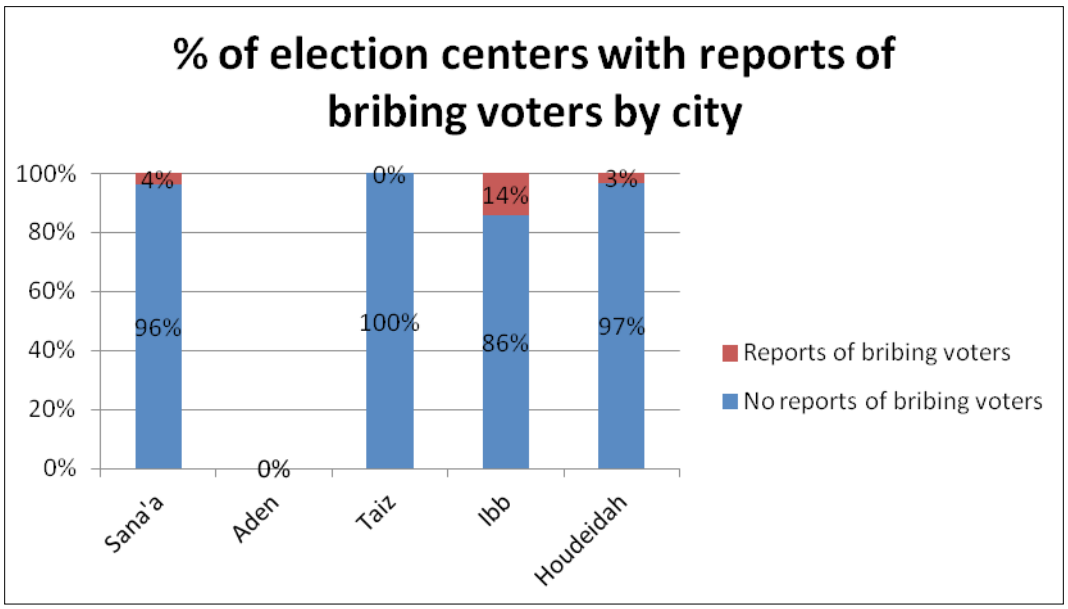
BRIBING VOTERS

The question answered by youth election monitors was: ***"Did you see people trying to influence voters through paying cash or in-kind materials?"*** Answers to this question were received from a total of ***184 election centers.*** Of these 184 centers, ***7 centers (4%)*** reported incidents of bribing voters. The distribution is shown in the following graphs.



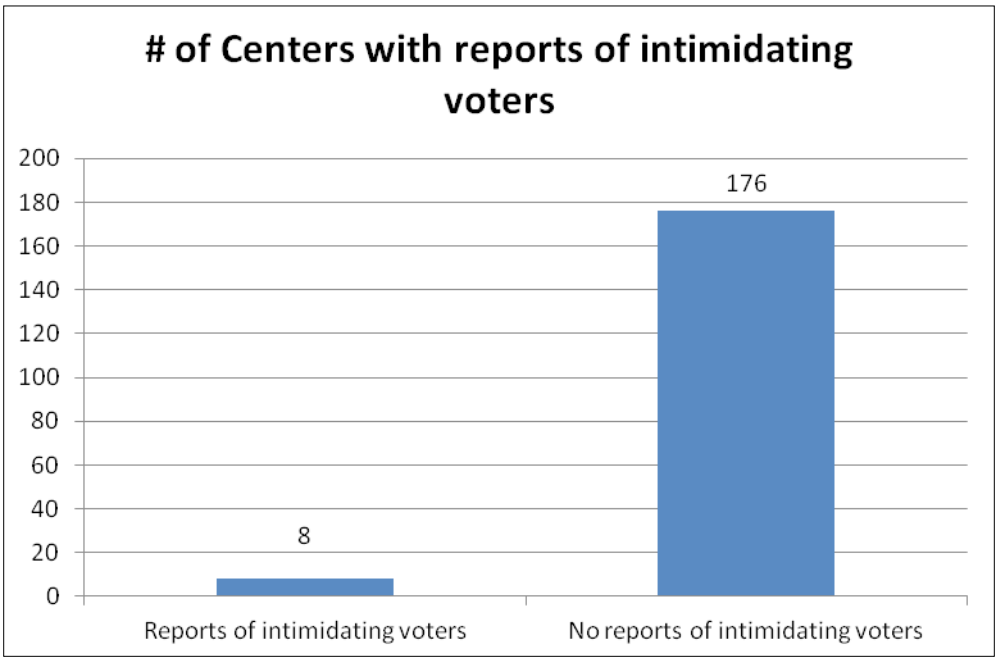


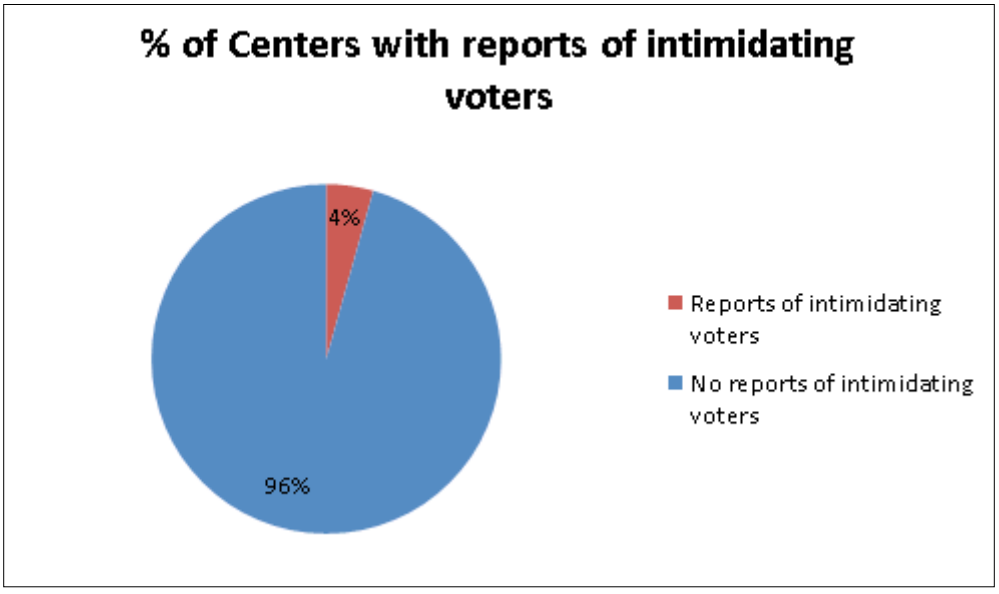

# of election centers with reports of bribing voters by city
140
120
100
80
60
40
20
0
133
5
0 0
8
0
6
1
30
1
Sana'a
Aden
Taiz
Ibb
Houdeidah
No reports of bribing voters
Reports of bribing voters

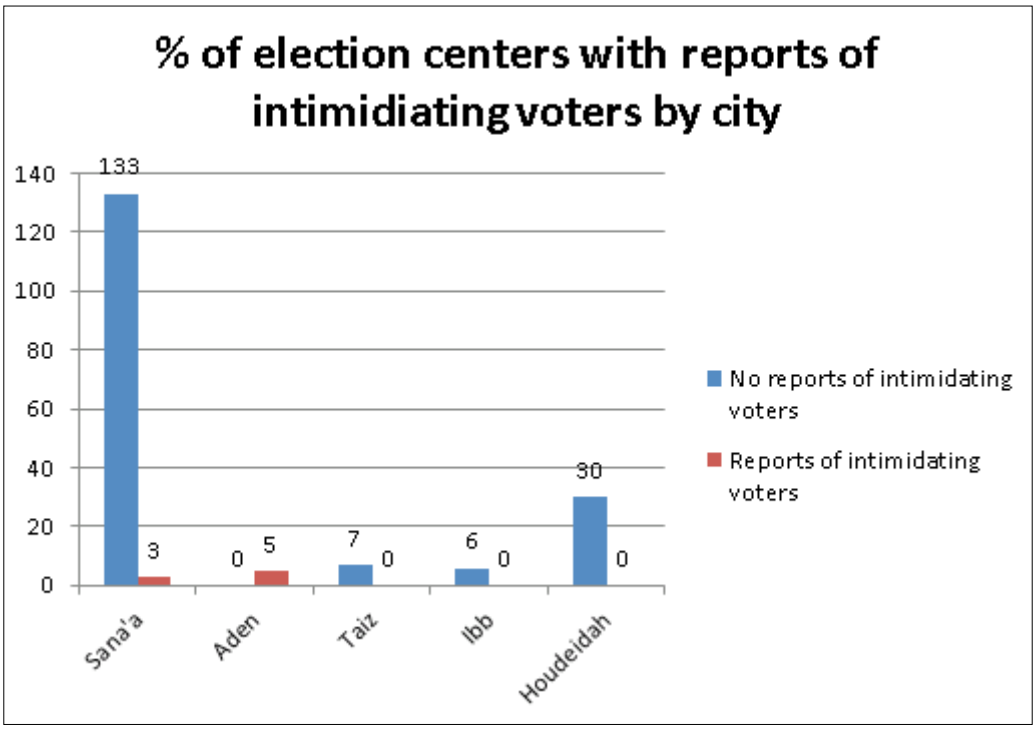

% of election centers with reports of bribing voters by city
100%
80%
60%
40%
20%
0%
4%
96%
0%
0%
100%
14%
86%
3%
97%
Sana'a
Aden
Taiz
Ibb
Houdeidah
Reports of bribing voters
No reports of bribing voters

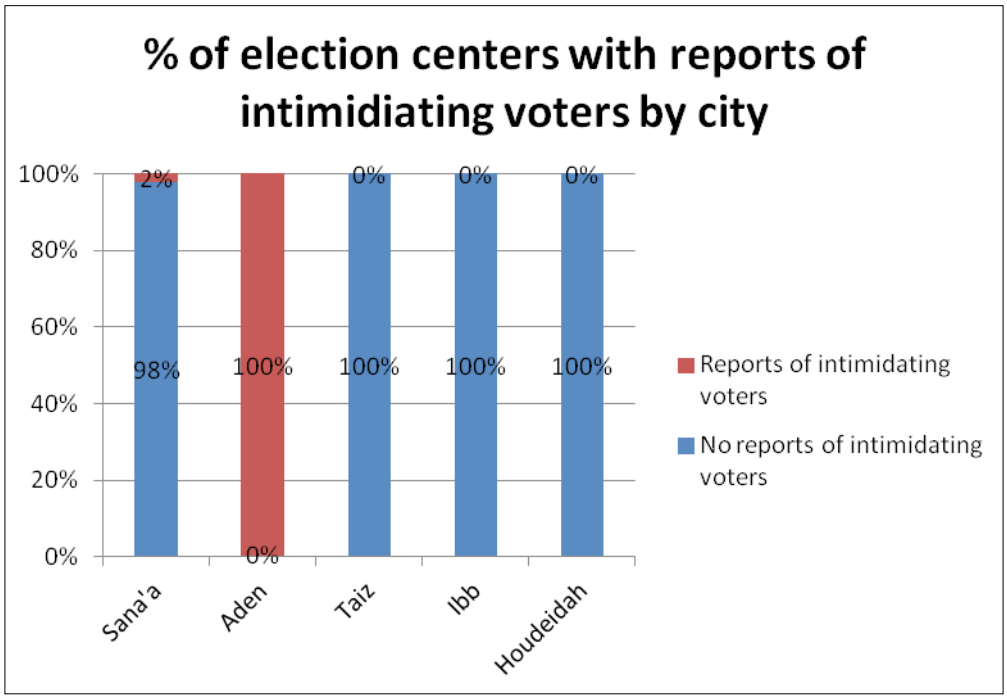
INTIMIDATING VOTERS

The question answered by youth election monitors was: ***"Did you see people trying to intimidate voters in the vicinity of the election center?"*** Answers to this question were received from a total of ***184 election centers.*** Of these 184 centers, ***8 centers (4%)*** reported incidents of voter intimidations. The distribution is shown in the following graphs.



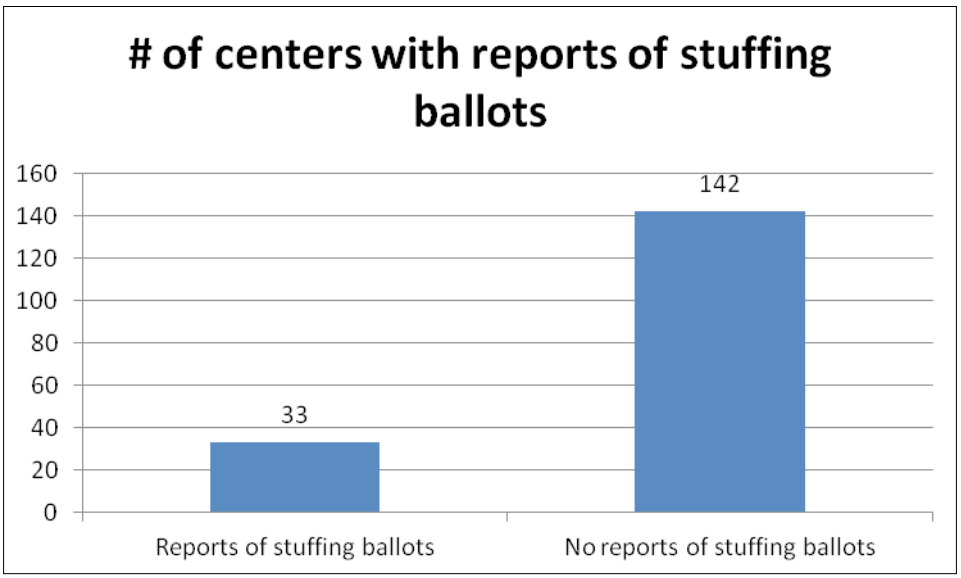


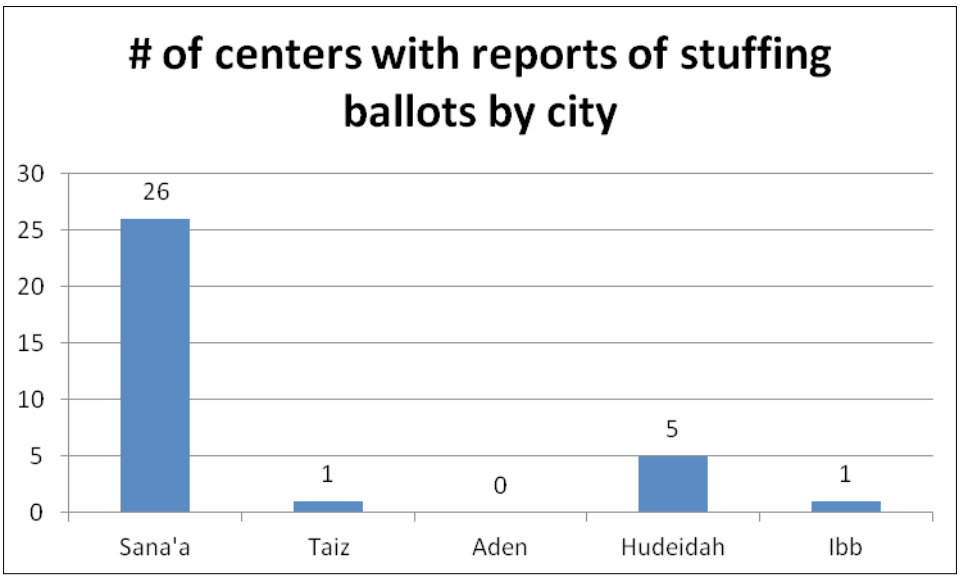

% of election centers with reports of intimidiating voters by city
140
120
100
80
60
40
20
0
133
3
0
5
7
0
6
0
30
0
Sana'a
Aden
Taiz
Ibb
Houdeidah
No reports of intimidating voters
Reports of intimidating voters


% of election centers with reports of intimidiating voters by city
100%
80%
60%
40%
20%
0%
2%
98%
100%
0%
100%
0%
100%
0%
100%
0%
Sana'a
Aden
Taiz
Ibb
Houdeidah
Reports of intimidating voters
No reports of intimidating voters

BALLOT BOX STUFFING

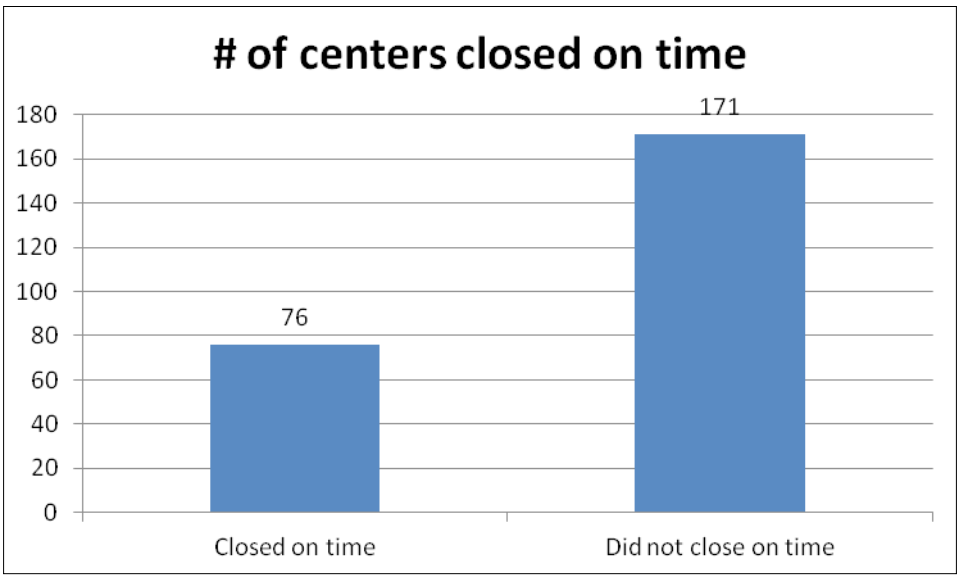
The question answered by youth election monitors was: ***"Did you notice any stuffing of the ballot boxes?"*** Answers to this question were received from a total of ***175 election centers.*** Of these 175 centers, ***33 reported incidents of ballot box stuffing.*** The majority of these incidents (26 of them) were reported in Sana'a. The distribution is shown in the following graphs.

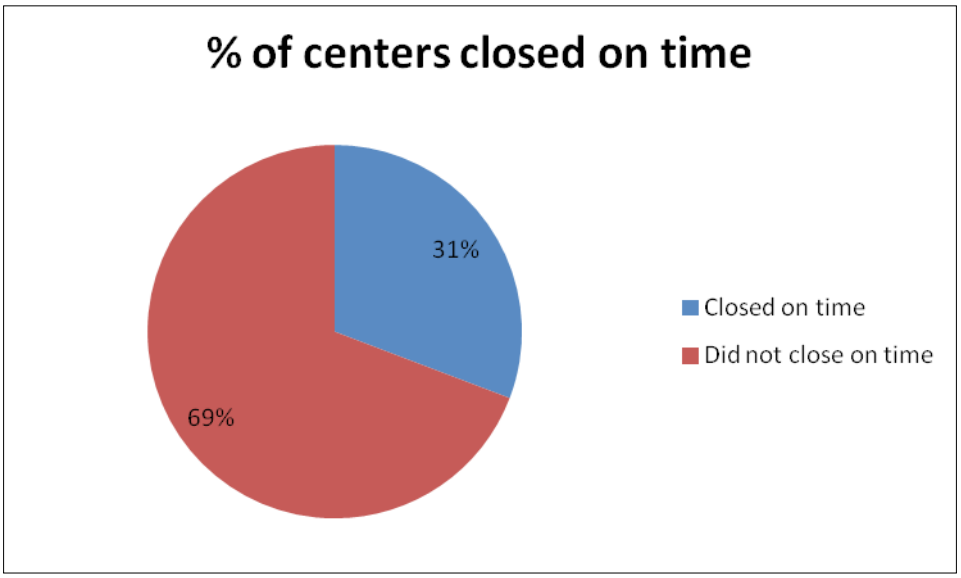




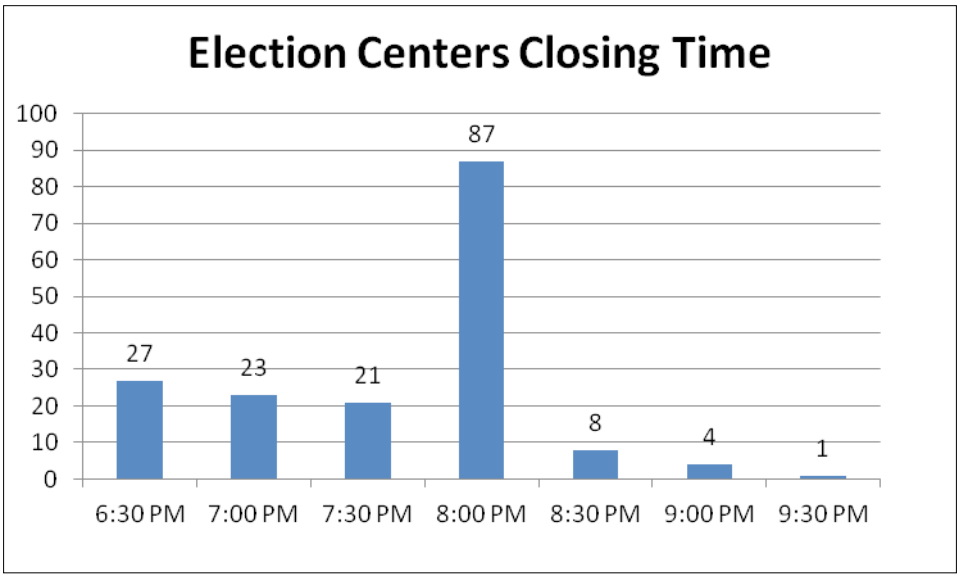
CLOSING TIME

The question answered by youth election monitors was: ***"Did the voting process close at the scheduled time (6:00pm?)"*** Answers to this question were received from a total of ***247 election centers.*** Of these 247 centers, ***171 centers (69%) did not close on time.*** The distribution is shown in the following graphs.



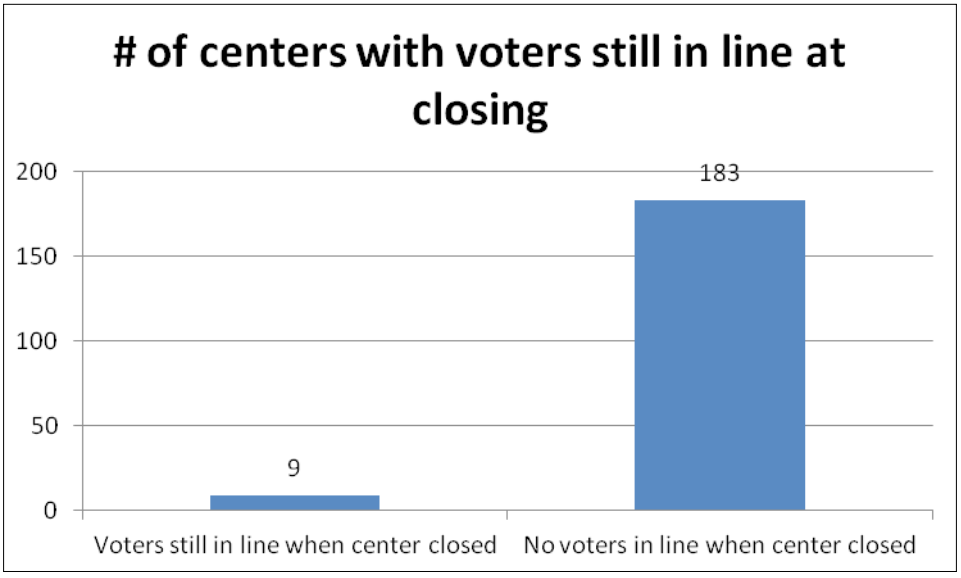


The graph below shows the distribution of the closing times at the 171 centers that did not close at 6:00pm.



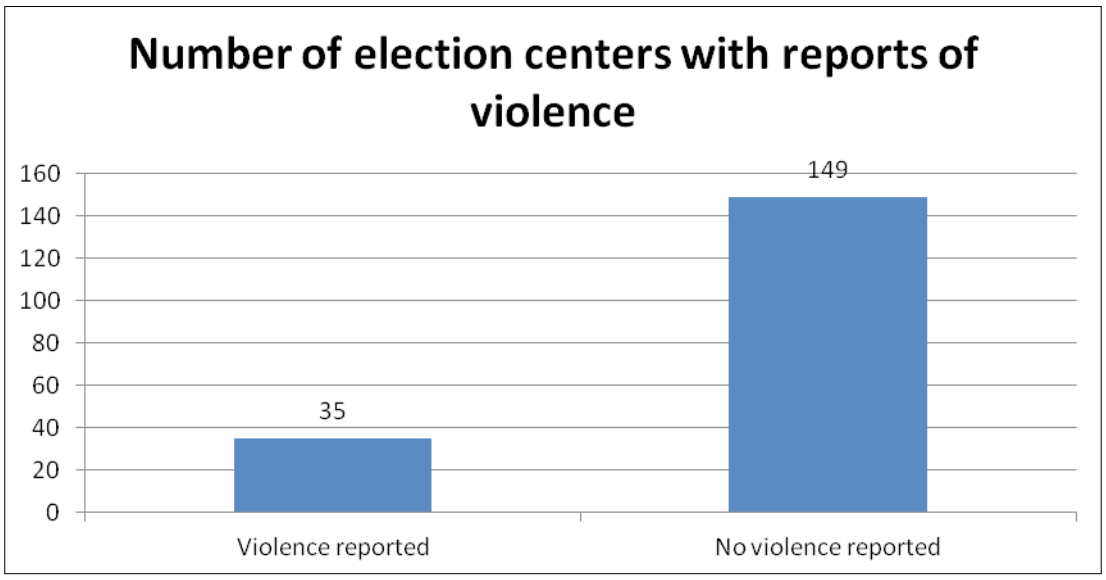
VOTERS IN LINE AT CLOSING

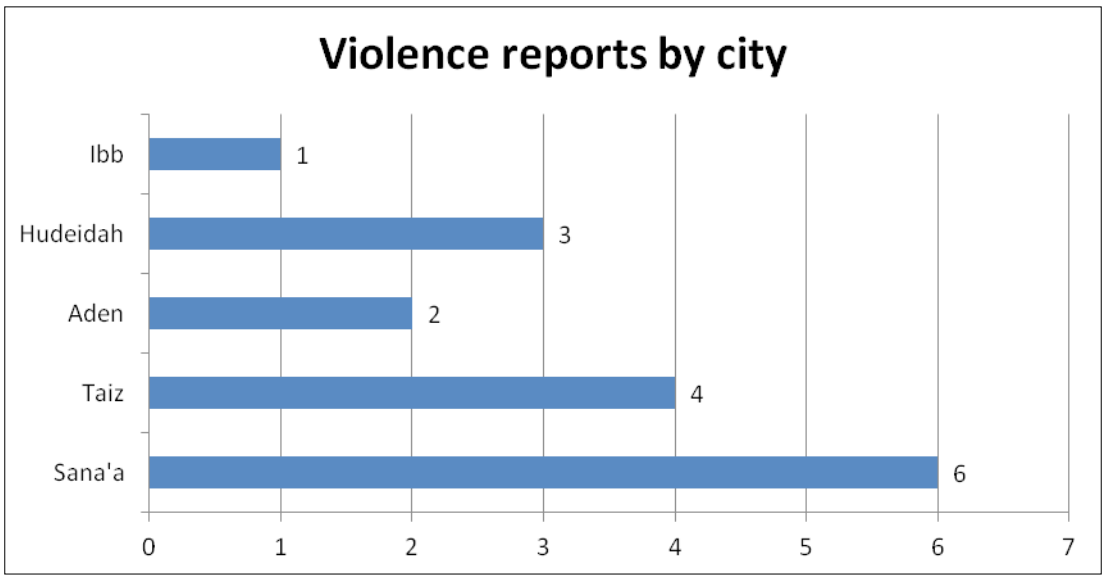
The question answered by youth election monitors was: ***"Were there still voters waiting in line when the center closed who could not vote?"*** Answers to this question were received from a total of ***192 election centers.*** Of these 192 centers, ***only 9 had voters still in line*** at closing time who were not able to vote as shown in the graph below.

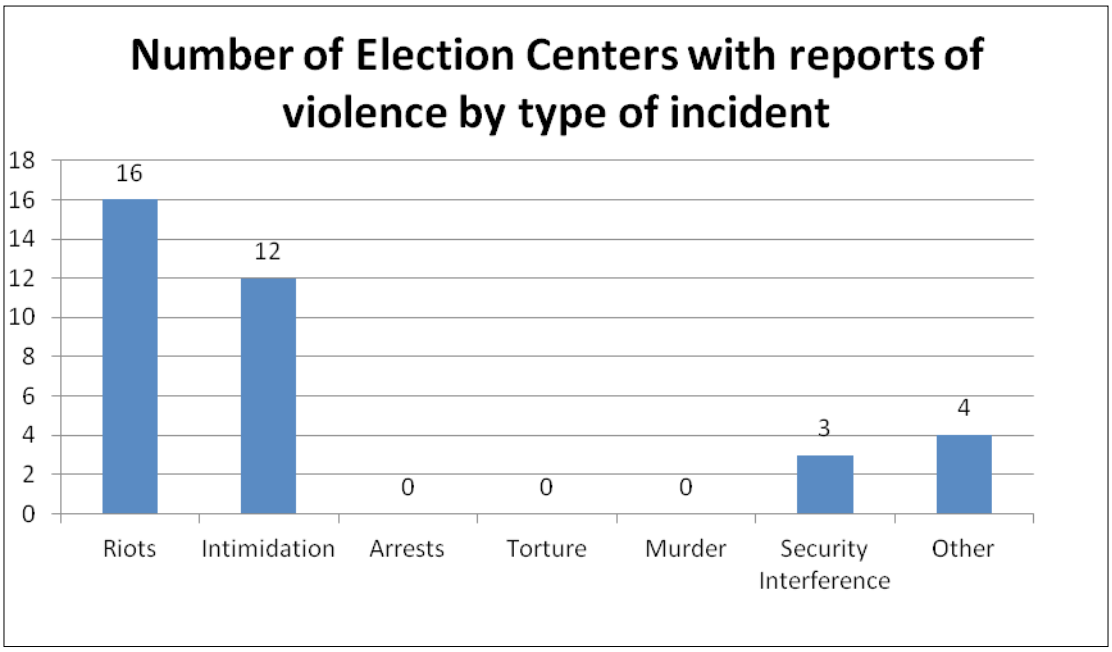


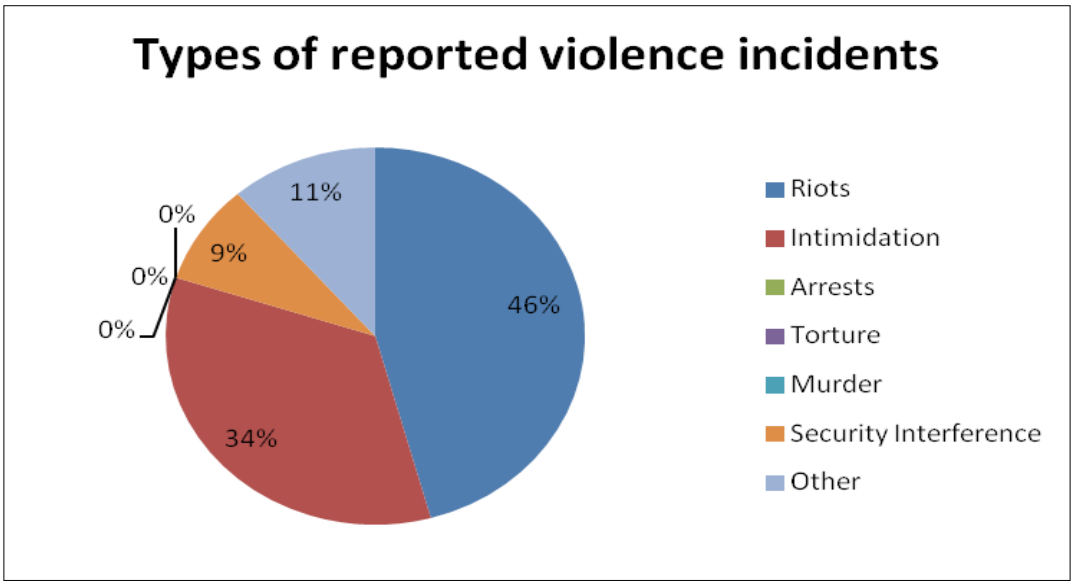
ACTS OF VIOLENCE

The question answered by youth election monitors was: ***"Did you see any acts of violence in the election center or the surrounding area?".*** If the answer is Yes, monitors had to report ***the type of violence witnessed.*** Answers to this question were received from a total of 184 election centers. Out of these 184 election centers, 35 centers had incidents of violence reported. The following graphs shows the breakdown of these reports.






Number of Election Centers with reports of violence by type of incident
18
16
14
12
10
8
6
4
2
0
16
12
0
0
0
3
4
Riots
Intimidation
Arrests
Torture
Murder
Security Interference
Other


Types of reported violence incidents
46%
34%
0%
0%
0%
9%
11%
Riots
Intimidation
Arrests
Torture
Murder
Security Interference
Other

PROJECT PARTNERS

EC-UNDP JOINT ELECTORAL ASSISTANCE PROJECT (JEAP).

The Joint Electoral Assistance Project (JEAP) is a partnership between the Delegation of the European Union in Yemen, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), and the Supreme Committee for Election & Referendum (SCER). The project's objectives are:

- Supporting Electoral Institutions and Processes

- Supporting Legal Reforms

- Women's Political Empowerment

UNDP's offices were established in both former the Republic of Yemen and the People´s Democratic Republic of Yemen (PDRY) in 1966 and 1967 respectively. The two offices were amalgamated upon the reunification of the two parts of Yemen on 22 May 1990. UNDP as an organization was able to help the Government of Yemen and its people, prior and after reunification, to address development needs. UNDP has notable and recognized contributions in many development sectors such as, agriculture, telecommunication, metrology, standardization and quality control, civil aviation, postal, water resources management, microfinance, information technology, statistical management, HIV/AIDS, local governance, and many others.

The European Union enjoys longstanding relations with Yemen, which date back to 1997 when the first official cooperation agreement was signed. This relationship has kept growing ever since. In December 2009, the EU established a full diplomatic representation to the Republic of Yemen, which reflects a strong interest by the European Union to take its partnership with Yemen to a new level. The European Union considers it a priority to promote dialogue with civil society in Yemen. Over the past few years, the delegation has engaged in active discussions with Yemeni civil society on various issues of common interest, such as promotion of democracy, protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms and empowerment of women. Special sessions were organized to hear civil society's views on the EU cooperation with Yemen and what should be the priorities for coming years.

USAID

USAID has operated in Yemen since 1959. In 2003, following a seven-year absence, USAID reopened its mission in Yemen with assistance principally focused on basic education, maternal and child health, and agriculture in five target governorates (Marib, Amran, Shabwa, Al Jawf, and Sa'ada).

In 2009, amidst growing instability and a greater sense of urgency, USAID developed a new strategy to increase stability through targeted interventions in highly vulnerable areas of the country. USAID's development programs will address the drivers of instability in specific areas of the country, with programs designed to respond quickly to the articulated needs and frustrations of communities in the most unstable areas. The strategy, implemented principally through three highly integrated, multi-sectoral projects, is being jumpstarted by USAID's Office of Transition Initiatives through rapid assessments and quick impact initiatives working closely with government. A key component of USAID's strategy is continuous, on-the-ground assessment of the impact of its projects in support of increased stability.

NATIONAL DEMOCRATIC INSTITUTE (NDI)

NDI is a nonprofit, nonpartisan, nongovernmental organization that has supported democratic institutions and practices in every region of the world for more than two decades. Since its founding in 1983, NDI and its local partners have worked to establish and strengthen political and civic organizations, safeguard elections, and promote citizen participation, openness and accountability in government.

For more than a decade, NDI has conducted programs in Yemen aimed at providing members of parliament with core legislative skills, improving the representative nature of Yemen's political parties, increasing women's political participation, strengthening the capacity of civil society organizations and strengthening local councils.

LINKINTIME LTD.

Linkintime Ltd. is the fastest growing mobile technology company that serves today diverse businesses and millions of customers.

Established in 2004, linkintime Ltd. is a French - Yemeni company that has soon become the first and rapid growing Wireless Applications Services Provider in Yemen, and prospective contender in the Middle East region and Europe.

LinkInTime provides the latest and most powerful wireless application services on SMS, MMS, WAP & GPRS platforms to a broad range of GSM and CDMA operators and enterprises, allowing them to surmount the complex challenges of reach, speed, predictability and cost, in today's growing wireless and web environment.

CITIVOX

CitiVox enables effective communication and collaboration between citizens and decision makers.

We've built our company based on these guiding principles:

1. We can empower citizens by establishing clear and accessible communication with decision makers.

2. Data analysis and real-time information is key to create efficient and effective strategies that meet citizens' real needs.

3. Decision makers should deliver and communicate results in a transparent way.

4. When decision makers are accountable, citizens are encouraged to participate in collaborative problem solving.

We believe in creating value while doing good.

MOBILEACTIVE

MobileActive.org connects people, organizations, and resources using mobile technology for social change.

MobileActive.org is the leading network and resource on the use of mobile technology for social impact. We provide field consulting, conduct research, connect people online and through participatory events, and advance the use of mobiles for NGOs and civil society organizations.

We share knowledge and skills amongst our peer network of more than 20,000 people around the world. We also maintain a comprehensive mDirectory of mobile applications, research, case studies, tactical guides, and strategy resources for NGOs. The global MobileActive.org community includes NGO staff, activists, technologists, content and sevice provides, MVNOs, academics and donors.

ELAGHIL TECK

Elaghil Teck is a recent technology division of the Elaghil Group. With our global expertise we aim at providing our customers with the latest cutting edge, high-rich and customized solutions and technologies to meet their challenges in the modern world.