

Case Study: Yemen Deploys TrueVoter™ Biometric Voter Registration Solution for Accurate Identification

Problem Statement

The country of Yemen has struggled with inaccurate voter registries suffering from the ill effects of duplicate, under-age, and “ghost” voters. Working in partnership with the International Foundation for Electoral Systems (IFES), Yemen’s Supreme Commission for Elections and Referendum (SCER) was looking for a more efficient voter identification solution to overcome the problems that existed with their current voter registry for their upcoming parliamentary and local elections.

Client Profile

The Supreme Commission for Elections and Referendum (SCER) of Yemen is an independent financial and administrative organization. The tasks of this body comprise drawing constituencies, participating in voter education and registration measures, and ensuring that elections take place according to the Yemen law.



Since 2012, the International Foundation for Electoral Systems (IFES) has been providing technical assistance to Yemen’s electoral body, the Supreme Commission of Elections and Referendum (SCER), to develop and implement the country’s new BVR system funded by international donors, including IFES, USAID, and UNDP.



Challenges

The initial registration of voters in Yemen was conducted in 1992, creating a voter roll of 2.7 million out of an estimated 6.9 million eligible voters. The list was updated in 1996, when 1.9 million new voters were added, an increase of 58 percent. This registration was plagued by problems and irregularities due in part by the reduction in the number of registration centers from the 2,000 centers used in 1992 down to 301 centers in 1996. In 1999, the list was again updated, adding approximately another one million voters, bringing the total to 5.6 million. During these exercises, registration was always conducted under severe time constraints, which resulted in many data entry inaccuracies. There have also been many claims of duplicate registrations, both accidental and intentional.



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There were many problems with the previous voter registration systems. The following is a list of the problems identified:

- ❑ The procedure for compiling, posting, and correcting the preliminary voter register is complex, laborious, and error-prone
- ❑ There is no unique identifier to aid in identifying duplicate registrations
- ❑ There have been a number of alterations to the register to clean up the lists, but these alterations were without any audit trail

Solution

Working in partnership with the International Foundation for Electoral Systems (IFES), Yemen's Supreme Commission for Elections and Referendum (SCER) chose the **TrueVoter™** biometric voter registration solution from M2SYS Technology to help reduce the number of electoral disputes, support the legitimacy of the voting process, and, by extension, boost public confidence in Yemen's democratic institutions.



Yemen's new biometric voter registration (BVR) system has many outstanding features. Unique features of this solution include:

- ❑ The capability of registering and matching fingerprint, finger vein, palm vein, iris, and facial recognition biometric templates
- ❑ A total number of 14 million voters will be registered under this BVR system for the next election
- ❑ Currently, Yemen's BVR database has 84 million fingerprint templates (6 fingerprint templates from each individual) and 14 million facial images stored in its central database, which went through a rigorous de-duplication process
- ❑ The host application featured key modules such as demographic data capture, biometric capture, user and role management, biometric device management and log management modules

The M2SYS **TrueVoter™** system is a scalable and customizable software package that allows governments and election authorities perform a wide variety of tasks for processing, editing, searching, retrieving and storing voters biometric templates and voter records. It streamlines data collection and card issuance, creates a national database of verified voter data, and includes a wide range of tools to manage and maintain it.



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TrueVoter™ is a unique biometric voting registration solution broken down into four components:

- ❑ **Easy Capture** – a highly configurable voter data capture solution for enrollment
- ❑ **Voter Information Manager** – the central application that manages all voter records
- ❑ **ABIS matching** – a fast matching search engine that delivers accurate and secure results
- ❑ **ABIS de-duplication and adjudication** – the fastest and most powerful de-duplication software in the world and a powerful back end tool to help quickly and fairly resolve any election disputes



Benefits

Funded by international donors including **IFES, USAID and UNDP**, the registry is a public sector IT project with software developed by M2SYS Technology and ranks among the most sophisticated BVR systems in the world. This is the most advanced and sophisticated BVR project undertaken in the Middle East and North Africa and is on par with recent, high-quality BVR projects. Governments seeking to implement a biometric voter registration project expect that the system will:

- ❑ Prevent duplicate registrations
- ❑ Provide a simple and user-friendly interface for registering and identifying voters
- ❑ Is easily scalable
- ❑ Ensure quick and precise biometric voting identification
- ❑ Provide a clear and easily accessible audit trail
- ❑ Facilitate interoperability between government agencies for database consolidation and maintenance standards

About M2SYS

With over a decade of experience and millions of end users in more than 100 countries worldwide, M2SYS Technology delivers innovative, scalable, and practical identity management solutions that increase security and convenience while saving money, building accountability and establishing trust for governments and businesses around the world. M2SYS is **ISO 9001:2008** Quality Management System (QMS) Certified Company and registered vendor for The **United Nations Global Marketplace** portal (UNGM # 377090).



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