



## RASSED's Morning Statement on the Pre-Opening and Beginning of Polling

15 / 08 / 2017

As part of RASSED's efforts to monitor the various stages of the municipal and decentralisation elections in Jordan, a minute-on-minute follow up of local polls kicked off with field observers and a central operation room.

RASSED has deployed a total of 2000 observers at polling centers and stations, 250 mobile observers and 100 researchers to the field across the country. They are supported by a professional team at the operation room, who are trained to collect, compile, analyse and classify information and data from a nationwide network of observers, in line with a pre-established methodology, based on international best practices in electoral reform and civil society election monitoring.

The observers were statistically deployed to the polling stations to ensure accurate representation, covering 73% of the polling stations across the Kingdom. Further, the observers' distribution criteria took into account areas with potential electoral violations, areas of tension and candidates' competition intensity, based on a range of analytical data. These data included tracking voter and candidates' complaints during the entire electoral period, competitiveness among candidates, and previous tension areas, compiled through the cumulative experience of the team.

Pre-polling inputs from (92.4%) and early morning inputs from (93.8%) of field observers were analyzed. The percentages and accuracy of data collection from the field are among the highest levels at the regional level, when it comes to polling monitoring. The data, collected from the observers during the first three hours of the electoral process, indicate good preparedness of the electoral process management and elections committees. The percentage of polling stations that opened on time (i.e. 7am local time) reached (41.5%), meanwhile, (58%) of polling stations were opened 130- minutes late, (0.61%) 3160- minutes late.

Voters turnout in the morning varied across the country. The cities of Mafraq, Jerash, Ajloun, Kerak saw the highest turnout of 7.5%. Although the voting percentage in the central cities is the lowest, but it reflects high number of voters, given the population concentration in these cities. Voter turnout in the capital city of Amman stood at 26,700 voters or (1.7%), which is, numerically, higher than those who



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casted their ballots in Ajloun, Jerash, Mafraq together. Overall, the number of voters who casted their ballots until 10:30am stood at (267,000), or (6.5%) of total eligible voters in the Kingdom.

As for security, there was a moderate presence of police officers near the polling centers. The data compiled from observers showed that (95.2%) of the polling stations witnessed a security presence without tensions.

Regarding the readiness of polling stations for voters with special needs, the results showed that (85.64%) of the polling stations were equipped, indicating a higher percentage, compared to previous elections.

Meanwhile, the data showed full availability of all necessary electoral materials that must be available with the voting and counting committees, indicating good preparedness.

Cooperation level with local observers, however, varied between the Independent Election Commission to the voting and counting committees. The IEC was more cooperative, while local observers were banned entry to the polling stations and rooms in several areas, based on decisions of the voting committees.

This can be attributed to a confusion caused by the commission's decision to prevent RASSED observers from attending meeting of the special committees, which was interpreted by some committees as preventing observers from carrying out their tasks at the polling centers and stations.

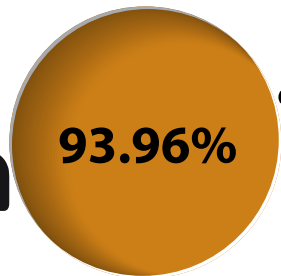
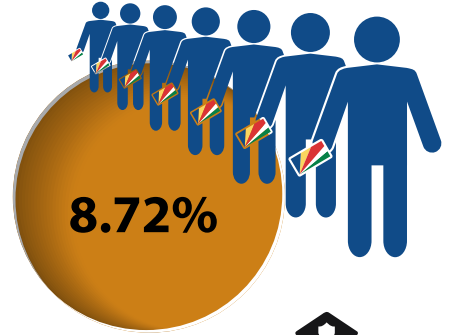
RASSED urges the IEC to take the necessary action to rectify the situation and allow authorized observers to collect data.

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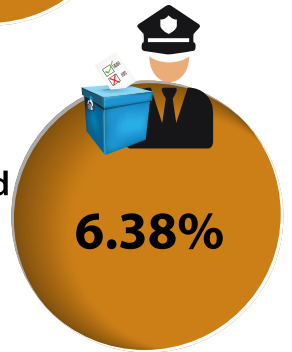
of Polling Centers displayed their voters' lists at the entrance

of Polling Centers had a queue of voters waiting to enter before opening

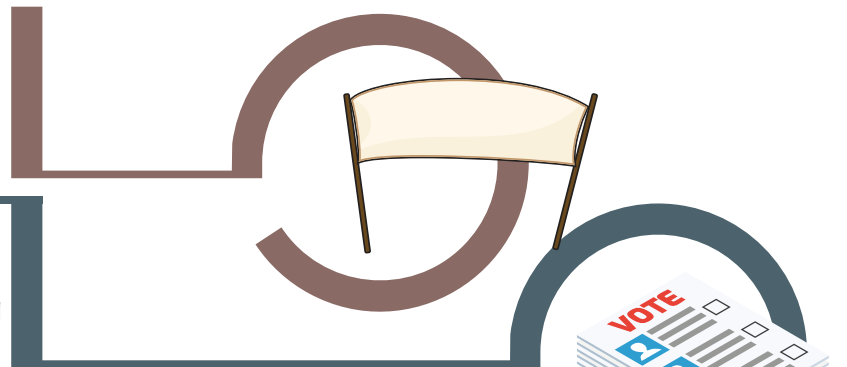


of Polling Centers witnessed security presence *in their vicinity*

of Polling Centers witnessed security presence *within their borders*



**93.89%**  
of Polling Centers were clearly marked with Signboards



**64.83%**  
of Polling Centers had campaigning ads *in their vicinity*

**6.3%**  
of Polling Centers had campaigning ads displayed *within their borders*



**85.64%**  
of **Polling Centers** were equipped to receive voters with mobility disabilities



## Electoral Supplies

of Polling Stations had all electoral supplies available at opening

