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ABOUT US

THE CENTER FOR DEVELOPMENT AND DEMOCRACY (CDD) IS AN INDEPENDENT, NON-PROFIT, NON-GOVERNMENTAL, AND NON-PARTISAN ORGANIZATION DEDICATED TO FOSTERING AN OPEN, DEMOCRATIC, INCLUSIVE, FREE, AND CONSOLIDATED SOCIETY IN GEORGIA. ROOTED IN DEMOCRATIC VALUES, CDD WAS ESTABLISHED IN TBILISI, GEORGIA, ON FEBRUARY 26, 2008.

C D D IS DEDICATED TO ADVANCING GEORGIA'S EU AND EURO-ATLANTIC INTEGRATION BY CHAMPIONING DEMOCRATIC VALUES, FOSTERING CONSTRUCTIVE DIALOGUE AMONG STAKEHOLDERS, RAISING COMMUNITY AWARENESS, ADVOCATING FOR POSITIVE CHANGE, AND EMPOWERING YOUTH AND WOMEN. ADDITIONALLY, << ▷ ▷ IS COMMITTED TO COMBATING DISINFORMATION AND PROPAGANDA BY PROMOTING TRUTH AND TRANSPARENCY.

CDD IS COMMITTED TO FACILITATING DEMOCRATIZATION THROUGH THE PRINCIPLES OF THE RULE OF LAW; IMPARTIAL, ACCURATE, AND PROFESSIONAL ELECTION OBSERVATION; EQUALITY; CIVIL SOCIETY DEVELOPMENT; ADVOCACY; VOTER EDUCATION; VOTER TURNOUT POPULARIZATION; MEDIA LITERACY; AND ENHANCING CIVIC AWARENESS AND PARTICIPATION IN REFORM EFFORTS.





ELECTION OBSERVATION EXPERIENCE OF CDD

CDD HAS CONDUCTED 22 ELECTION OBSERVATION MISSIONS IN GEORGIA, MONITORING EVERY ELECTION AND BY-ELECTION SINCE 2010. WE HAVE CONSISTENTLY ADHERED TO RIGOROUS INTERNATIONAL STANDARDS, SUPPORTED BY INTERNATIONAL DONORS AND CROWDFUNDING INITIATIVES.

IN 2010, DURING THE LOCAL SELF-GOVERNMENT ELECTIONS, AND IN 2012, DURING THE PARLIAMENTARY ELECTIONS OF GEORGIA, CDD CONDUCTED ELECTION OBSERVATION IN COOPERATION WITH THE DOMESTIC OBSERVER ORGANIZATION NEW GENERATION - NEW INITIATIVE (NGNI). THIS COLLABORATION DEPLOYED A 1,500-MEMBER MISSION ACROSS THE COUNTRY, WHICH INCLUDED PARALLEL VOTER TABULATION (PVT), SUPPORTED FINANCIALLY BY USAID, THE INTERNATIONAL REPUBLICAN INSTITUTE (IRI), AND THE EMBASSY OF THE KINGDOM OF THE NETHERLANDS IN GEORGIA. THIS PARTNERSHIP PROVIDED CDD WITH UNIQUE EXPERIENCE AND METHODOLOGIES, ESTABLISHING OUR STRONG PRESENCE IN THE ELECTION OBSERVATION FIELD.



SINCE 2013, CDD HAS CONDUCTED INDEPENDENT OBSERVATION MISSIONS, BUILDING ON THIS FOUNDATION OF EXPERIENCE AND EXPERTISE. CDD'S OBSERVER NETWORK COMPRISES 300 MEMBERS WHO HAVE UNDERGONE EXTENSIVE TRAINING THROUGH OSCE/ODIHR, BUILDING RESOURCES IN DEMOCRACY, GOVERNANCE AND ELECTIONS (BRIDGE), COUNCIL OF EUROPE (COE) AND OTHER PREPARATORY PROGRAMS. THESE OBSERVERS HAVE PARTICIPATED IN NUMEROUS ELECTIONS IN GEORGIA, ENSURING THAT OUR OBSERVATION EFFORTS MAINTAIN A COMPREHENSIVE AND HIGH-STANDARD APPROACH THROUGHOUT EACH ELECTION CYCLE.





OVER THE YEARS, CDD'S OBSERVERS HAVE PARTICIPATED IN OSCE / ODIHR ELECTION OBSERVATION MISSIONS IN ARMENIA, SERBIA, KAZAKHSTAN, ALBANIA, AND OTHER COUNTRIES. THIS EXPERIENCE HAS ENRICHED OUR UNDERSTANDING OF INTERNATIONAL OBSERVATION STANDARDS, BRINGING VALUABLE INSIGHTS BACK TO OUR MISSIONS.



THE CDD OBSERVER TEAM INCLUDES INDIVIDUALS WITH SIGNIFICANT EXPERIENCE IN BOTH DOMESTIC AND INTERNATIONAL OBSERVATION MISSIONS. WE MAINTAIN ONE OF THE HIGHEST STANDARDS AMONG DOMESTIC OBSERVER ORGANIZATIONS IN GEORGIA THROUGH OUR OBSERVERS CODE OF CONDUCT. THIS CODE INTEGRATES BEST INTERNATIONAL PRACTICES AND MANDATES ADHERENCE FROM EVERY MEMBER OF OUR OBSERVATION MISSION.

OUR OBSERVATION METHODOLOGY IS MULTIFACETED, EMPLOYING BOTH LONG-TERM AND SHORT-TERM APPROACHES. CDD'S OBSERVATION MISSION COVERS THE ENTIRE ELECTION CYCLE, INCLUDING PRE-ELECTION, ELECTION DAY, AND POST-ELECTION PERIODS. ON ELECTION DAY, WE STRATEGICALLY DEPLOY STATIONARY OBSERVERS AT POLLING STATIONS, BOLSTERED BY MOBILE GROUPS. OUR COVERAGE EXTENDS ACROSS ALL LEVELS OF ELECTION ADMINISTRATION, INCLUDING PECS, DECS, AND THE CEC. ADDITIONALLY, OUR CORE TEAM AND ELECTION DAY CALL CENTER PROVIDE COMPREHENSIVE ASSISTANCE, CONDUCT METICULOUS INFORMATION ANALYSIS, AND ENSURE EFFECTIVE COMMUNICATION OF ELECTION MONITORING RESULTS TO THE BROADER PUBLIC AND MEDIA.



SINCE 2013, CDD HAS OPERATED AN ELECTION DAY HOTLINE, RECEIVING OVER 5,000 CALLS FROM CITIZENS AND STAKEHOLDERS SEEKING TO REPORT VIOLATIONS, RECEIVE ELECTION-RELATED INFORMATION, AND OBTAIN CLARIFICATIONS. THIS HOTLINE PLAYS A CRUCIAL ROLE IN PROVIDING DIRECT SUPPORT, ENSURING ELECTORAL TRANSPARENCY, ACCOUNTABILITY, AND ACCESS TO INFORMATION.



A NOTABLE MILESTONE FOR CDD WAS THE MONITORING OF THE PARLIAMENTARY ELECTIONS ON OCTOBER 31, 2020, CONDUCTED IN PARTNERSHIP WITH THE INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATION "INSTITUTE FOR DEMOCRACY AND CULTURAL EXCHANGE" (IDEM). THIS PIONEERING MODEL FEATURED JOINT MONITORING BY LOCAL AND INTERNATIONAL OBSERVERS, PROMOTING CONSENSUS AND IMPARTIAL OBSERVATION THROUGH MOBILE GROUPS.



CDD HAS GAINED SPECIALIZED EXPERTISE IN MONITORING SPECIAL PRECINCTS CREATED UNDER EXCEPTIONAL CIRCUMSTANCES AND ELECTION PRECINCTS ABROAD. THIS EXPERIENCE HAS LED TO THE FORMULATION OF NUMEROUS LEGAL RECOMMENDATIONS, MANY OF WHICH HAVE BEEN INTEGRATED INTO RELEVANT LEGISLATIVE FRAMEWORKS, THEREBY ENHANCING THE LEGAL FOUNDATION FOR ELECTIONS IN GEORGIA.



CDD CLOSELY COLLABORATES AND COOPERATES WITH ALL RELEVANT INTERNATIONAL AND DOMESTIC STAKEHOLDERS AND ACTORS ENGAGED IN THE ELECTION FIELD. CONDUCTING SUCCESSFUL ADVOCACY CAMPAIGNS FOR LEGISLATIVE CHANGES OVER ITS 14-YEAR INVOLVEMENT IN ELECTORAL ACTIVITIES, CDD HAS GENERATED NUMEROUS REPORTS AND CRAFTED TAILORED RECOMMENDATIONS THAT HAVE BEEN EITHER FULLY OR PARTIALLY ACCEPTED AND INCORPORATED INTO ELECTORAL LAWS AND REGULATIONS. NOTABLY, CDD PIONEERED THE DEVELOPMENT AND SUBMISSION OF A SET OF GUIDELINES FOR CONDUCTING ELECTIONS SAFELY AMID THE PANDEMIC, WITH A MAJORITY OF THESE RECOMMENDATIONS BEING ADOPTED BY THE RELEVANT AUTHORITIES.



IN ADDITION TO MONITORING ACTIVITIES, CDD HAS MANY YEARS OF EXPERIENCE IN IMPROVING THE ELECTORAL ENVIRONMENT, NAMELY:

CDD'S EXPERIENCE IN ELECTRONIC TECHNOLOGIES

ONE OF CDD'S PRIMARY OBJECTIVES IS ACTIVE INVOLVEMENT AND MONITORING IN THE UTILIZATION OF ELECTRONIC ELECTION TECHNOLOGIES. OUR INITIATIVE AIMS TO INTRODUCE MODERN, VOTER-ORIENTED, AND USER-FRIENDLY TECHNOLOGIES THAT SIMPLIFY AND EXPEDITE ELECTORAL PROCESSES, THEREBY ENHANCING TRUST IN THE ELECTORAL SYSTEM. THIS COMMITMENT TO INNOVATION AND IMPROVEMENT IS HIGHLIGHTED IN OUR REPORTS, POLICY DOCUMENTS, AND PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENTS, WHERE WE PROVIDE RELEVANT RECOMMENDATIONS FOR ADVANCING ELECTORAL SYSTEMS AND FOSTERING TRUST IN THE ELECTORAL PROCESS.



CONTINUOUS ELECTORAL REFORM, PARTICULARLY THE INTEGRATION OF NEW TECHNOLOGIES INTO ELECTORAL PROCEDURES, IS CRUCIAL FOR CDD. TO ACHIEVE THIS GOAL, CDD HAS DILIGENTLY OBSERVED VARIOUS PILOT PROCESSES USING ELECTRONIC TECHNOLOGIES ACROSS GEORGIA, INCLUDING:

- ZUGDIDI (MAY 13, 2018)
- TSKALTUBO AND TKIBULI (MAY 19, 2019)
- KRTSANISI (OCTOBER 2, 2021)
- POTI, KHOBI, AND SENAKI (APRIL 29, 2023)
- GORI (OCTOBER 1, 2023)

THESE OBSERVATIONS THOROUGHLY ASSESSED THE EFFICIENCY OF ELECTRONIC TECHNOLOGIES, READINESS OF ELECTORAL SITES AND COMMISSIONS, VOTER INFORMATION DISSEMINATION AND BEHAVIOR, PROCEDURAL ACCURACY, AND ADHERENCE TO GENERAL ELECTORAL STANDARDS AND BEST PRACTICES. CDD'S EVALUATIONS HAVE GENERATED NUMEROUS RECOMMENDATIONS THAT HAVE SIGNIFICANTLY CONTRIBUTED TO THE ENHANCEMENT OF ELECTORAL PROCESSES. TO DATE, WE HAVE PUBLISHED THREE SUMMARY REPORTS AND A COMPREHENSIVE PACKAGE OF RECOMMENDATIONS, ACCESSIBLE ON OUR WEBSITE: WWW.CDD.GE.





ENHANCING ELECTORAL AWARENESS AND CIVIC PARTICIPATION

SINCE 2013, CDD HAS LAUNCHED NUMEROUS INITIATIVES ACROSS THE REGIONS OF GEORGIA AIMED AT ENHANCING ELECTORAL AWARENESS AND ENCOURAGING CIVIC PARTICIPATION AMONG VOTERS. THESE INITIATIVES HAVE SUCCESSFULLY ENGAGED OVER HALF A MILLION VOTERS THROUGH PHYSICAL AND VIRTUAL PROGRAMS, INCLUDING INITIATIVES TARGETING ETHNIC MINORITIES, YOUTH, WOMEN, FIRST-TIME VOTERS, AND OTHER GROUPS. THIS EFFORT HAS SIGNIFICANTLY CONTRIBUTED TO CREATING A MORE INFORMED AND ENGAGED ELECTORATE ACROSS THE COUNTRY.



OUR ACTIVITIES INCLUDED:

MEETINGS AND TRAININGS: CONDUCTED TO EDUCATE VOTERS ON THE ELECTORAL PROCESS AND THEIR RIGHTS.

- WORKSHOPS AND SIMULATIONS: PROVIDED FIRST-TIME VOTERS WITH HANDS-ON EXPERIENCE OF ELECTION DAY PROCEDURES AT UNIVERSITIES AND IN PUBLIC SPACES ACROSS THE COUNTRY.
- MASSIVE CONCERTS: HELD ACROSS THE COUNTRY UNDER THE THEME "GO AND VOTE!" TO INSPIRE CIVIC PARTICIPATION.
- BUS TOUR "GO AND VOTE": ORGANIZED TO PROMOTE ELECTIONS AND ACTIVE CITIZENSHIP AMONG THE YOUTH, SPREADING EDUCATIONAL MATERIALS AND HOLDING MEETINGS ACROSS THE REGIONS.
- COMPETITIONS: PHOTO AND SLOGAN COMPETITIONS FOR YOUTH BASED ON SOCIAL MEDIA, AS WELL AS A POSTERS COMPETITION WITH ACAG AMONG THE LEADING CREATIVE GROUPS IN GEORGIA TO PROMOTE THE IDEA OF VOTING.
- EDUCATIONAL MATERIALS: DEVELOPED AND WIDELY DISSEMINATED THROUGH LOCAL AND REGIONAL TV AND SOCIAL MEDIA IN MINORITY LANGUAGES (ARMENIAN, AZERBAIJANI) TO ENSURE BROAD ACCESS TO INFORMATION AND ENGAGEMENT.

THROUGH THESE COMPREHENSIVE EFFORTS AND MORE, CDD HAS PLAYED A PIVOTAL ROLE IN FOSTERING A MORE INCLUSIVE AND PARTICIPATORY DEMOCRATIC PROCESS IN GEORGIA.





INNOVATIVE DIGITAL TOOLS

CDD HAS EMBRACED INNOVATIVE DIGITAL TOOLS TO ENHANCE VOTER EDUCATION AND AWARENESS. DURING THE PANDEMIC, AND CONTINUING TO BE SUCCESSFUL THEREAFTER, WE CREATED THE KENTSERO E-LEARNING PLATFORM, A GEORGIAN-LANGUAGE ONLINE RESOURCE DESIGNED TO EDUCATE AND ENGAGE CITIZENS.

KENTSERO OFFERS A VARIETY OF COURSES AND SCHOOLS, FEATURING:

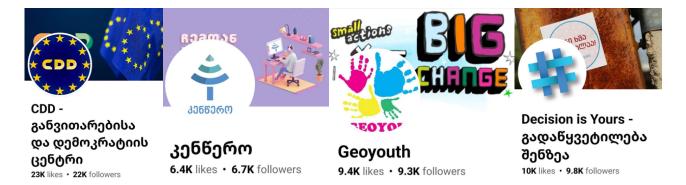
- 18 DISTANCE LEARNING COURSES;
- 198 VIDEO LECTURES;
- 92 EXPERT SPEAKERS (48% WOMEN);
- OVER 50,000 UNIQUE / REGISTERED USERS;
- 740,500 ACTIVITIES ON KENTSERO.GE SINCE 2021.



ONE OF THE MOST SUCCESSFUL SCHOOLS ON KENTSERO IS THE DEMOCRACY SCHOOL, COVERING VARIOUS TOPICS INCLUDING DEMOCRACY, ELECTIONS, AND ELECTION MONITORING. THIS PLATFORM HAS BEEN INSTRUMENTAL IN REACHING A WIDER AUDIENCE, PROVIDING ACCESSIBLE AND COMPREHENSIVE INFORMATION TO PROMOTE INFORMED PARTICIPATION IN THE ELECTORAL PROCESS.

SOCIAL MEDIA PRESENCE

CDD HAS ESTABLISHED A STRONG SOCIAL MEDIA PRESENCE, PRIMARILY FOCUSING ON FACEBOOK. OUR PAGES DEDICATED TO VOTER EDUCATION AND YOUTH ENGAGEMENT. THESE PAGES REACH DIFFERENT BUT IMPORTANT TARGET GROUPS, EFFECTIVELY DISSEMINATING VOTER EDUCATION CONTENT, COUNTERING: PROPAGANDA, DISINFORMATION, MISINFORMATION AND ENGAGING THE COMMUNITY IN THE DEMOCRATIC PROCESS.



CDD HAS ALSO SUCCESSFULLY CONDUCTED INFORMATION CAMPAIGNS ON SOCIAL MEDIA. IN ADDITION TO VOTER EDUCATION AND ENGAGEMENT EFFORTS, WE HAVE DEVELOPED CAMPAIGNS DEDICATED TO RAISING AWARENESS AND BUILDING TRUST TOWARDS OBSERVER ORGANIZATIONS, OBSERVATION MISSIONS, OBSERVERS, AND THE OVERALL ROLE OF DOMESTIC OBSERVER ORGANIZATIONS. THESE INITIATIVES HAVE BEEN CRUCIAL AND HIGHLY SUCCESSFUL, REACHING THOUSANDS OF VIEWS AND ACHIEVING WIDE ENGAGEMENT ACROSS VARIOUS PLATFORMS.



CDD AND MEDIA



OVER THE YEARS SINCE 2014, CDD HAS ACTIVELY PARTICIPATED IN THE MEDIA CENTER OF DOMESTIC OBSERVATION ORGANIZATIONS TOGETHER WITH: ISFED, GYLA, TI, PMMG AND HRC REGULARLY DISSEMINATING OBSERVATION RESULTS TO JOURNALISTS AND CIVIL SOCIETY. THIS ENGAGEMENT HAS FACILITATED TRANSPARENCY AND INFORMED PUBLIC DISCOURSE REGARDING ELECTORAL PROCESSES, SUPPORTED BY THE OPEN SOCIETY FOUNDATION IN GEORGIA.



CDD HAS MAINTAINED ACTIVE COOPERATION WITH INTERNATIONAL, NATIONAL, AND REGIONAL MEDIA, CONDUCTING NUMEROUS PRESS CONFERENCES, INTERVIEWS, AND LIVE BROADCASTS TO SHARE OUR OBSERVATIONS AND PROFESSIONAL ASSESSMENTS. THIS ONGOING RELATIONSHIP WITH THE MEDIA HAS BEEN INSTRUMENTAL IN PROMOTING AN INFORMED AND TRANSPARENT ELECTORAL PROCESS.



CAPACITY BUILDING OF POLITICAL PARTIES

TO ENHANCE THE ELECTORAL CAPABILITIES OF POLITICAL PARTIES AND PROMOTE DEMOCRATIC PRACTICES, CDD HAS SUCCESSFULLY IMPLEMENTED SEVERAL PROJECTS SUPPORTED BY DONOR ORGANIZATIONS OVER THE YEARS. THESE INITIATIVES FOCUS ON STRENGTHENING THE INTERNAL DEMOCRACY AND ORGANIZATIONAL CAPACITY OF POLITICAL PARTIES ACROSS GEORGIA THROUGH VARIOUS TRAININGS, WORKSHOPS, AND MEETINGS.



IN A POLARIZED ENVIRONMENT, WE ARE PROUD TO STATE THAT APPROXIMATELY 1,000 REPRESENTATIVES FROM 30 POLITICAL PARTIES REGISTERED FOR ELECTIONS HAVE BENEFITED FROM THESE PROJECTS, UNDERSCORING THEIR SUBSTANTIAL OUTREACH AND IMPACT ON GEORGIA'S POLITICAL LANDSCAPE.

CDD ACTIVELY PARTICIPATES IN WORKING GROUPS AND COMMISSIONS OF VARIOUS FORMATS CREATED ON THE TOPIC OF ELECTIONS, INCLUDING:

INTERAGENCY COMMISSION FOR FREE AND FAIR ELECTIONS (IAC/IATF)

CDD ACTIVELY PARTICIPATES IN THE ACTIVITIES OF THE INTER-AGENCY COMMISSION, WITH ITS REPRESENTATIVES REGULARLY ATTENDING AND MONITORING THE COMMISSION'S MEETINGS TO ENSURE ACTIVE PARTICIPATION AND OBSERVATION OF THE COMMISSION'S PROCEEDINGS.



ILET'S DISCUSS TOGETHER" INITIATIVE

CDD ACTIVELY PARTICIPATED IN THE WORKING MEETINGS HELD WITHIN THE FRAMEWORK OF THE INITIATIVE OF THE CEC - "LET'S DISCUSS TOGETHER", THIS PARTICIPATION ALLOWED CDD TO PRESENT ITS VIEWPOINTS AND SUGGESTIONS ON VARIOUS ELECTORAL ISSUES, CONTRIBUTING TO A COLLABORATIVE AND INCLUSIVE DIALOGUE AIMED AT ENHANCING ELECTORAL PROCESSES.



PUBLIC CONSIDERATION OF DRAFT CONSTITUTIONAL CHANGES

CDD HAS ACTIVELY PARTICIPATED IN THE PUBLIC CONSIDERATION OF DRAFT CONSTITUTIONAL CHANGES AS A REPRESENTATIVE OF CIVIL SOCIETY. ACTIVELY ENGAGED IN PUBLIC HEARINGS AND MEETINGS WITH CITIZENS ACROSS THE COUNTRY, CDD ENSURED A COMPREHENSIVE UNDERSTANDING OF THE FORTHCOMING CONSTITUTIONAL CHANGES, PARTICULARLY THOSE RELATED TO THE TRANSITION FROM MIXED ELECTORAL SYSTEM TO A FULLY PROPORTIONAL PARLIAMENTARY SYSTEM.



DOMESTIC OBSERVATION ORGANIZATIONS WORKING GROUP

WITH THE GENEROUS FACILITATION OF THE INTERNATIONAL FOUNDATION FOR ELECTORAL SYSTEMS (IFES) IN GEORGIA, CDD HAS BEEN A KEY PARTICIPANT IN THE DOMESTIC OBSERVATION ORGANIZATIONS WORKING GROUP. THIS COLLABORATIVE EFFORT HAS RESULTED IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF A MEMORANDUM FOR EACH ELECTION CYCLE ON THE USE OF ADMINISTRATIVE RESOURCES, WHICH IS SIGNED WITH THE MINISTRY OF JUSTICE OF GEORGIA AND THE CENTRAL ELECTION COMMISSION (CEC). ADDITIONALLY, CODES OF CONDUCT ARE SIGNED WITH THE CEC IN PARTNERSHIP WITH DOMESTIC OBSERVATION ORGANIZATIONS, ENSURING TRANSPARENCY AND ACCOUNTABILITY IN ELECTORAL PROCESSES.



TECHNICAL WORKING GROUP (TWG)

DURING THE ELECTION PERIOD, UNDER THE AUSPICES OF THE UNITED NATIONS DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM (UNDP), A TECHNICAL WORKING GROUP (TWG) COMPRISING LOCAL AND INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS IS OPERATIONAL. THIS FORUM DISCUSSES THE ELECTION ADMINISTRATION'S ACTIVITIES AND CIVIL SOCIETY'S ENGAGEMENT IN ELECTORAL PROCESSES. CDD IS AN ACTIVE PARTICIPANT IN THE TWG, CONTRIBUTING INSIGHTS AND UPDATES ON ITS ONGOING ACTIVITIES TO FOSTER PRODUCTIVE DISCUSSIONS AND COLLABORATION.

E-DAY TRAININGS FOR INTERNATIONAL OBSERVERS

CDD HAS BEEN HONORED TO HAVE BEEN INVITED TO CONDUCT ELECTION DAY OBSERVATION TRAININGS FOR THE OBSERVERS OF THE UNITED STATES EMBASSY, THE EMBASSY OF THE UNITED KINGDOM TO GEORGIA, AND THE EMBASSY OF THE KINGDOM OF THE NETHERLANDS. THROUGH THESE TRAININGS, WE SHARE SPECIFIC KNOWLEDGE, TECHNICAL DETAILS, AND E-DAY PROCEDURES.



