



## CHAD: ELECTION ORGANIZATION SEMINARS

AMEX worked with the U.S. Agency for International Development and the transitional government of Chad to pave the way for multiparty elections. Postponing training for election organizers and observers until an electoral law was passed and an adequately autonomous National Electoral Commission was created, AMEX collaborated with the Study and Research Group on Democracy and Economic and Social Development in Africa (GERDDES) to train governors, prefects, and subordinates.

The AMEX team consisted of two senior trainers and four Chadian lawyers. Under the auspices of the National Electoral Commission, the team trained over two hundred of the Ministry of the Interior's territorial administrators. The participants in the training sessions examined logistics planning, reviewed the flawed procedures that led to judicial annulment of the electoral census, and studied the electoral law in detail. When they actually simulated a voting day, they realized how defects can crop up in the best-laid plans.

### FAIRNESS AND PATIENCE

Getting new politicians and old warring factions in Chad to reach consensus on fair procedures was a painstaking process. Patience and clear principles guided USAID, the U.S. Embassy, and AMEX through negotiations with Chadians on the election preparations. Both the training and the elections were rescheduled several times.

Originally, judiciary retraining for democracy had been scheduled to follow the election organizational training. Judiciary retraining was rescheduled to take place first, however, and it immediately increased the awareness and confidence of the judiciary. When the electoral census (conducted with French assistance, independent of the U.S. Agency for International Development and AMEX) proved defective, the Court of Appeals, whose judges had just completed a seminar with colleagues from other West African democracies whom AMEX had brought in, ruled that it was invalid. The result was a disappointing postponement of the elections, but one justified by the hope of greater fairness in the end.

Eight different training sessions were conducted in N'Djamena, Sarh, and Abéché. The entire team of trainers participated in the initial sessions in N'Djamena, to ensure that the answers given to complex questions concerning voting day would be the same in all parts of the country and for all administrative levels. After the initial sessions, the trainers broke into smaller teams to conduct training sessions in different parts of the country.

AMEX home office staff, including specialists in democracy and governance and in human resources development, worked closely with GERDDES/Chad to design the seminars. The trainers brought experience with a series of recent African elections to the Chadian training, as well as a full package of proven training materials. To increase GERDDES's capacity to design and conduct similar programs in the future, AMEX briefed the organization's staff on management and accounting operations and on program development.