



Nigeria Election Violence Report (NEVR) Project



Overview

The Nigeria Election Violence Report (NEVR) project is led by the National Association for Peaceful Elections in Nigeria (NAPEN) in Nigeria, in collaboration with the International Foundation for Electoral Systems (IFES). This project will develop the capacity of civil society to monitor, analyze and respond to incidents of election-related conflict and promote collaboration and dialogue between election stakeholders including the electoral management body (INEC), security agencies, political parties, the judicial sector, and other community and faith-based organizations, in order to mitigate and/or prevent election violence before, during and after the 2011 elections in Nigeria. To accomplish this, NAPEN will engage civil society organizations (CSOs) across Nigeria as monitors during the pre-election, Election Day and post-election periods of the 2011 elections. NAPEN and its local-level partners will also distribute public awareness materials and engage in public education. This combination of activities will strengthen partners' ability to reinforce peace in their communities and to help prevent tensions from escalating into violence. The NEVR website (www.NEVR.org) will house SMS-based reporting from monitors in the project and brings groundbreaking technology to improve upon previous conflict reporting and give the public and other stakeholders near-instant access to incidents around the country as well as a variety of other election-related information.

Goals

- To increase public knowledge and awareness of the dangers of election violence before, during and after elections
- To increase the participation and involvement of election stakeholders in the mitigation and prevention of election violence
- To increase the capacity of CSOs and electorates to monitor and prevent electoral violence

Project Structure and Methodology

The Nigeria NEVR Project will include 6 Program Officers, 12 Master Trainers, and 72 Monitors, with 2 Master trainers and 12 Monitors in each of the six geo-political zones. The team will represent diverse civil society organizations from across the country networking as partners. Monitors will document verified incidents of violence¹, potential for violence (levels of tension), and peace activities in hotspots across every zone, from February until the end of May. This information will be immediately relayed up to the NEVR website via text message and subject to verification and quality control by the team before showing up on www.nevr.org. Data will be maintained by IFES/NAPEN and monthly analytical reports will explore trends, positive and negative, found by the monitoring team. These regular reports featuring patterns of violence and tensions, peace initiatives, and recommendations will be distributed to civil society, governmental, and security actors nationwide.

The NEVR project is built upon the Election Violence Education and Resolution (EVER) program developed by IFES from global best practices in monitoring and mitigation of election violence and through implementation in over a dozen countries around the world. NEVR monitors will learn skills to identify election violence and track tension levels, to interview sources to verify reported violence and assess tension levels, and to accurately document their findings. Monitors will be trained in the use of reporting tools for documenting and verifying incidents of election violence, as well as capturing information on peace events. Paper forms will back up the immediacy of the SMS relay to the NEVR.org website and will be sent to NAPEN headquarters every two weeks.

About the partners: NAPEN is a coalition of 6 organizations, one based in each geo-political zone: FAcE-PaM in North-East; Christian Community Initiative for Peace and Development (CCIPAD) in South-East; Inter-Gender in North-Central; Community Policing Partners (COMPPART) in South-South; SEMA in North-West; and WARDC in South-West. IFES is an international, nongovernmental, nonpartisan, nonprofit organization based in Washington, DC that supports the building of democratic societies. For more information, please contact Nanyap, Yacit Noel, NAPEN Program Coordinator, at +23408036811396 or nyacitnoel@yahoo.com.

¹ Within the EVER framework, election violence refers to any harm or threat of harm to any person(s) or property involved in the election process, or to the process itself, during the election period. Election violence can involve political parties, their supporters, journalists, agents of the government, election administrators or the general population. Such violence includes threats, destruction of property, and physical or psychological harm. An "incident of election violence" refers to any act that 1) has a specific victim(s) and perpetrator(s) and occurs within a limited timeframe and location; 2) meets the definition of election-related violence; and 3) has been verified by monitors using at least two different sources of information.