

Peaceful Elections Project in Montserrado County Fact Sheet

Context

The 2017 presidential elections will be only the **second** presidential elections since the Liberian civil strife (1989-2003).

Indicators of Potentially Violent Conflict

With the UN-MIL drawing down and handing over control of the nation's security to the Liberian government on July 1, 2016, and given that Liberia is still recovering from the instability compounded by the Ebola outbreak, there is concern that the 2017 presidential elections could provoke violence.

Locally Defined Strategies and/or Activities

The Pen-Pen Peace Network (PPPN), a local peace committee supported by the PPP, created strategies and activities that would encourage dialogue among relevant stakeholder groups, such as pen-pen drivers (motorcycle taxi drivers), police, youth, market women, and other community members in Montserrado county. The goal of these activities is to ensure peace during the election period. In addition to promoting peaceful elections, one of the major goals of this project is to strengthen the relationship between pen-pen drivers and the Liberian National Police (LNP), and build trust between these two groups. Designed as an 18-month long effort, this project was officially launched in October 2015. The project includes activities such as Confidence Building Weeks, town hall meetings, radio talk shows, distribution of flyers, roundtable discussions, soccer matches, and other activities.

Impact

Although the project is ongoing, data collected by the PPP in early 2016 indicate that the project has been positively perceived by local citizens and that they have embraced the messages about peace. Moreover, the relationships between pen-pen drivers and the police have begun to improve in the context of the project. The National Election Commission (NEC) of Liberia has joined the effort as well.