

Peaceful Elections Project in Bong County Fact Sheet

Context

The 2017 presidential elections in Liberia will be the first presidential elections since the Liberian civil strife (1989-2003) to represent a peaceful transfer from one elected president to another. Bong County has one of the greatest number of former youth combatants in Liberia. In the recent past, political leaders have used some of these youth in Bong to instigate violence, especially during elections.

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, there is concern that the 2017 presidential and legislative elections could provoke violence. One reason for the need of violence prevention in Bong County around the 2017 elections is a perception among many Bong citizens that the Government of Liberia may not have sufficient capacity to secure peace after an eventual UN-MIL withdrawal from Liberia.

Locally Defined Strategies and Activities

With the support of the Purdue Peace Project, a group of local citizens in Bong County that called itself the Pen-Pen Peace Network-Bong (PPPN-Bong) began to strategize ways to ensure peace during the 2017 elections. After the initial actor meeting of representatives of pen-pen riders (motorcycle taxi drivers), police, youth, market women, and other community members to engage in dialogue around peaceful elections, in the Spring of 2017, the PPPN-Bong started implementing various tactics and activities to encourage peaceful collaboration among Bong citizens in the context of the elections.

Impact

To be determined.

Last Updated May 2017