

## **Peaceful Elections Project in Margibi 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.

### **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. Furthermore, Margibi citizens have expressed fears that the Liberia National Police would not have enough oversight in securing peace around the 2017 elections.

### **Locally Defined Strategies and Activities**

With support from the Purdue Peace Project, a group of local citizens formed in Margibi and called itself the Pen-Pen Peace Network-Margibi. This committee developed strategies and activities to promote peaceful elections and encourage dialogue among relevant stakeholder groups, such as pen-pen drivers (motorcycle taxi drivers), police, youth, market women, and other community members in Margibi County. 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. A pilot project was conducted in Margibi in the Summer of 2016 and further activities are taking place in 2017.

### **Impact**

The pilot project conducted in the Summer of 2016 showed an interest and need for further peaceful elections work in Margibi County. Outcomes and impacts of the activities that will take place in 2017 are beginning to be assessed.

*Last Updated May 2017*