



FACT SHEET

Mitigating Election Violence through National Early Warning Systems (NEWS)



Mr. Chukwuemeka Eze, the Executive Director of WANEP and Mr. Alexandre Deprez, the USAID West Africa Mission Director, at the project signing ceremony. USAID/WA

Goal

Reduce the risk of election violence in West Africa.

Life of Program

2/2015-2/2020

Total USAID Funding

\$2.5 million

Geographic Focus

West Africa (Burkina Faso, Cote d'Ivoire, Niger, Sierra Leone)

Implementing Partner

West Africa Network for Peacebuilding (WANEP)



West African countries have experienced frequent incidents of violent conflict. Although the causes of state fragility and political instability in the region are deeply rooted and structural in nature, there have been occasions when large scale violence and instability have been sparked by elections or election-related processes. Despite best intentions embodied in the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) Protocol on Democracy and Good Governance, and the Conflict Prevention Framework, violence is still commonplace during elections in the region. Conflict early warning and response are therefore seen as critical conflict mitigation priorities by West African governments. Strengthening early warning and response around key elections in the region will help to increase stability and reduce the potential for future conflicts.

Program Description

Mitigating Election Violence through National Early Warning Systems is a five-year, \$2.5 million project implemented by the West African Network for Peacebuilding (WANEP). The aim of the project is to mitigate election violence in target countries in West Africa. Burkina Faso, Cote d'Ivoire, Niger and Sierra Leone have been selected to date. WANEP will assist community organizations to identify potential election violence risks by developing and monitoring a set of customized indicators and analyzing the resulting data. If monitoring in a given area reveals a heightened risk of violence at any point in the election cycle, WANEP will develop recommendations for peace-building activities to prevent it, and will channel these recommendations to targeted national and regional stakeholders for early action before the situation escalates.

Program Objectives

- Enable National Early Warning Systems in targeted countries to recommend responses to election violence triggers.
- Enhance recommendations and intervention strategies in targeted countries.
- Standardize and improve NEWS data collection and reporting.

Program Highlights

- With well-attended public launches in Burkina Faso and Côte d'Ivoire in May, WANEP is well underway in preparing for the 2015 presidential elections in both countries.